

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. XLIII.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1896.

No. 13.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	245
Leading Articles:—	
Russian Policy in the Far East.....	246
The Opening of the West River	246
The New Minister and Pending Questions	247
The Reconstitution of the Sanitary Board	247
Should the College of Medicine be Endowed?.....	248
The Legation Report on Trade with Japan.....	248
Trade between Japan and Australia.....	249
Li Hung-chang's Visit to Hongkong	250
Supreme Court.....	250
The Reconstitution of the Sanitary Board	253
The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	254
The Jubilee of Zetland Lodge	257
The College of Medicine for Chinese—Proposed Endow- ment	259
The Cattle Plague at Pokfulam	261
St. Patrick's Dance.....	261
The Stranding of the <i>Humber</i>	261
The Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited.....	261
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited	262
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited	262
Victoria Recreation Club.—Annual Athletic Meeting.....	262
Correspondence	263
Hongkong News.....	264
Commercial	265
Shipping	267

MARRIAGES.

At Union Church, Hongkong, on the 19th March, 1896, by the Rev. G. Williams, JAMES BRENNAN JACKSON, master of the Scottish Oriental Steamship Co.'s steamer *Loosok*, to EMILY, daughter of JOHN CAMP, of Bratton Fleming, N. Devon, England.

[759]

On the 7th March, 1896, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, by F. W. Playfair, Esq., Acting Consul, and afterwards at the Union Church by the Rev. H. J. Foss, CHARLES HERBERT, second son of the late FREDERIC JAMES LIGHTFOOT, of Esher, Surrey, to GEORGINA FLORA, second daughter of the late GEORGE NANKIVILL.

At All Saints' Church, Tientsin, on the 11th inst., by the Rev. Frank L. Norris, AUGUSTUS HENRY, eldest son of Augustus Victor JAMES, of London, to ANNIE GULE, only daughter of the late Cassini Fox, of Morebattle, Kelso, and stepdaughter of John Moffat, Imperial China Railways, Tientsin.

At the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 14th instant, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., EDWARD HAMILTON, of Shanghai, to JULIA STARMER, of Nuneaton, England.

DEATHS.

At No. 14, Rue Poncelet, Paris, NELLIE, third daughter of the late ROBERT and ELIZABETH Mc-BIRNEY, of DUBLIN. 19th December, 1895. [774]

At 5, Reidhaven Street, Banff, on the 7th February, JOHN MATHIESON, late Chief Inspector of Police, Hongkong, aged 47 years.

On the 7th March, 1896, at 8 p.m., at his residence in Osaka, Monseigneur HENRI VASSELON, Vicair Apostolique du Japon Centrale, aged 42 years.

At Shanghai General Hospital, on the 13th March, 1896, AUGUSTUS H. H. BRATT, aged 33 years.

At Chefoo, on the 14th of March, 1896, CONSTANCE HARRIET, wife of A. W. DOUTHWAITE, M.D.

At Shanghai, on the 16th of March, 1896, ANDREAS H. A. WINDHORST, aged 36 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 14th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 21st March (36 days); the English mail of the 21st February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Peshawur*, on the 20th March (28 days); and the Canadian and

American mails of the 2nd March and 25th February arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 24th March (22 and 28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Foochow Spring Race Meeting was held on the 17th, 18th, and 19th March.

Mr. John Andrew's case at Wuchow has been settled in his favour and he is shortly expected back at Canton.

Herr von Brandt has been ill at Peking, but according to latest reports was making fair progress towards recovery.

The official papers in connection with the proposed reconstitution of the Hongkong Sanitary Board have been published.

The report of the Manager of the Rand Gold Mine for the year ended 29th February last has been published. Mr. Bibby states that he has advised the directors to pay a dividend of 6d. per share.

A Reuter's telegram states an edict has been signed in Peking sanctioning the opening of the West River, but the actual opening thereof awaits the conclusion of an agreement with regard to the Yunnan frontier.

The report of the Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited, for last year shows that the net gain in working, including \$10,202 brought forward, amounts to \$69,727. It is proposed to pay a dividend of \$5 per share, to write off \$25,000, and to carry \$9,727 forward.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 16th March says:—The points in the new treaty between Japan and Germany upon which there has existed some difference of opinion are now settled, and it is expected that the treaty will soon be signed. Good progress is also being made with the French treaty.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 12th March states that it has been decided to withdraw the sum of £1,500,000 from the indemnity money now deposited in the Bank of England, to be expended in Japan. The necessary steps have already been taken and the money will be brought out at the earliest opportunity.

It is stated that the Reform Society has been re-established at Peking by an Imperial Edict appointing the Emperor's present tutor, Sun Chia-nai, who is described by foreigners who have met him as "the most amiable of men," at the head of it. A Reform Society under official auspices and with an "amiable man" at the head of it is not likely to accomplish much.

The accounts of the Shanghai Tugboat Co., Limited, for the year 1895, show net earnings Tls. 27,749. The amount at the credit of the profit and loss account, including the balance brought forward, is Tls. 30,818; against this interim dividends have been paid amounting to Tls. 15,000, to the reserve account Tls. 10,000, and out of the balance—Tls. 5,818.50—it is proposed to pay a final dividend of Tls. 5 per share, making a total of 20 per cent. for the year.

The annual meeting of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, was held at Singapore on the 12th March, when the report and accounts were adopted. The remuneration of the directors was increased from \$10 a meeting and \$20 for the chairman to \$20 and \$40 respectively.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—Mr. J. McLeavy Brown, formerly Commissioner of Customs at Seoul, is stated to have been given full control over the Treasury, and no money can be drawn without his signature. The Japanese officials in the Financial Department are said to have resigned, and will return to Japan. They are the authorities apparently for the statement that 20,000 yen was withdrawn from the Treasury before the recent *coup*, the excuse being that the money was wanted to defray the funeral ceremonies of the late Queen.

The movement for increasing directors' fees appears to be "catching on" in Shanghai. At the meeting of the Shanghai Cargo Boat Co., Limited, held on the 10th March, a resolution to increase the directors' fees from Tls. 1,500 to Tls. 3,000 was carried unanimously. At the annual meeting of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., held on the 18th March, the remuneration of the directors was increased from Tls. 1,500 to Tls. 2,500, and the directors' fees of the Shanghai Waterworks Co. have also been increased from Tls. 1,500 to Tls. 2,500.

H.E. Li Hung-chang arrived at Shanghai on the 14th March and goes to Europe by the next French mail. While passing through Tientsin he was entertained, on the 9th, at a banquet given by the foreign community, at which laudatory speeches were made. Mr. von Grot is to accompany the ex-Viceroy throughout his travels, while Mr. Detring will be attached to his suite in Germany, Mr. de Bernières in France, Mr. James Hart in England, and Mr. Drew in the United States, all these gentlemen being given the rank of Secretary of Embassy for the occasion.

The following appears in the *N. C. Daily News* translations from the *Peking Gazette*, under date of 1st January last:—"Wan Kuopon is appointed to the Brigadier-Generalship of the Nanao Circuit, Kwangtung." The translator appends the following note:—This post was held by Liu Yung-fu, the celebrated Black Flag chief of Tonkin, immediately after the Franco-Chinese war up to the present moment. Although ordered to go to Formosa previously to its cession to Japan, Liu did not resign his former post. The above appointment is therefore significant, meaning that Liu has been dismissed from the service.

The foreign Ministers at Peking paid their Chinese New Year congratulations to H.I.M. Kwang Hsi at the Wenhua Throne-hall on the 3rd March. The following were present at the audience:—Colonel Denby, U.S. Minister; Mr. Beaucherk, British Chargé d'Affaires; Count Cassini, Baron Scheeck, M. Gérard, Ministers for Russia, Germany, and France, respectively, and the Ministers for Japan, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands, with their respective Secretaries of Legation. On the 5th instant the Ministers were entertained at a banquet held at the Tsungli Yamen, on which occasion gifts from His Majesty were presented to the guests by H.H. Prince Kung.—*N. C. Daily News*.

RUSSIAN POLICY IN THE FAR EAST.

Whatever may be said of the morality of Russian policy in the Far East no one can question its general consistency. For the moment its course may be directed by a sudden emergency such as the recent intervention in behalf of China against Japan, when the latter had within her grasp the territory known as the Regent's Sword in the Liaotung Peninsula, but the Chinese have never, we imagine, for a moment deluded themselves into believing that the Government of the Czar had relinquished on that account the aims and ambitions of the last two hundred years. Even the fact that appearances then seemed emphatically to dispose of the belief firmly held, up to that date, that China's emergency was Russia's opportunity, could not blind Peking officials to the truth that their great neighbour only intervened for the furtherance of ends otherwise unattainable. Nor do Muscovite statesmen imagine for an instant that because Russia and her allies balked the victorious Japanese and prevented them establishing themselves in an impregnable position in the southern corner of Manchuria, the Chinese Government believe that the act was prompted by consideration for China or by hostility to the Japanese. The Chinese, no doubt, were duly thankful that Russian self-interest compelled that Power to intervene, and that French and German jealousies prompted each of those Powers to precipitately range themselves in support of the Great Bear, but they did not mistake the motives that influenced this to them timely interposition. They accepted the relief it brought, but without thanks and without gratitude. They recognised at a glance that Japan, by her success, had become a menace and an obstacle to Russian aims, and for that reason, and out of no sympathy with China, was Japan deprived of her spoils, and the integrity of the Chinese empire on the mainland once more preserved.

Possibly, if the truth were to be told, the Peking Government only regard Russia with augmented suspicion since this episode. It is so entirely contrary to Russian policy and practice to do anything from mere good will or without ulterior designs that the mandarins are probably still more closely on their guard against some unexpected development in which the Russians will claim some fresh reward for their enforced assistance. Ever since, in 1860, the Russian Government enlarged their boundaries on the Amoor by the addition of what was practically a province at the expense of China, at a time when she was unable to effectively resist, the Chinese Government have watched with deepest distrust every movement along the far-reaching northern frontier, and, if not armed to resist, have at least been ready to attempt to thwart any further advance by their great neighbour. The check administered to Russia by the Treaty of 1881, negotiated by the Marquis TSENG after that concluded by CHUNG HOW had been repudiated at Peking, is not likely to be forgotten by either party. Russia yielded on that occasion because she did not appreciate China's weakness, and China won by persistence and craft what she could never have gained by force of arms, the retrocession of the Kuldja. It may be doubted whether that agreement will prove of the permanent character it then seemed likely to prove. The dogged determination of China to recover a territory the value of which to the outsider seemed so disproportionate to the efforts made to repossess it,

rather served to bluff all the Western Powers and to impress them with a false estimate of the strength and latent energy of China. To some extent perhaps the Peking Government gained, inasmuch as this diplomatic triumph over Russia greatly assisted them in their dealings with the other Treaty Powers, enabling them to take a firm stand against all demands for redress for injuries suffered or breaches of the Treaties. This position of obstinate if passive resistance to Western pressure was still further strengthened by the miserable failure of the French attempt to exact satisfaction in 1884-5 for the invasion of Tonkin by Chinese troops.

But when in 1894 Japan stripped the lion's skin from the obstinate but cowering form of the Manchurian ass, the illusion so bravely kept up was once and for ever dispelled. Where before respect was felt for vaguely imagined strength, actual experience has begotten contempt for proved pusillanimity, corruption, and incompetence. The Peking Government may continue as mulish and as intractable as of old, but it is at least known that this obstinacy has nothing at the back of it, no reserve of fighting strength, little power of resistance to force. When the time comes for the next Russian advance it will not be checked by any over estimation of the resources of the Chinese Government. The time for that advance is perhaps hardly ripe; the great Trans-Siberian Railway has first to be completed, but in the meantime we may expect to see some signs of movement in Turkestan. Indeed it is already reported that the Mahomedans in Kashgaria are preparing for a new struggle, and Russian troops are being massed on the frontier. If this region again becomes the theatre of a sanguinary war and the Russians feel compelled to step in once more to occupy and administer the country, we may be sure they will not again surrender it to China. The Kashgarians would vastly prefer the rule of the Czar to that of the Son of Heaven, and the Russians would have no difficulty in holding the territory. A conflict with China would moreover afford Russia a fine pretext for the acquisition of the very territory from which, by the aid of France and Germany, she so astutely excluded the Japanese. It is quite possible that the Peking Government may be counting on Great Britain as an impediment to such an advance, but they will be wise not to do so. What can Great Britain hope for from China? The latter country has shown her utter helplessness against attack, she has abundantly proved her bad faith and selfish indifference to all Treaty obligations, and it would, therefore, hardly be worth while to act as her champion. Russia, on the other hand, is manifestly only fulfilling her destiny in endeavouring to push southwards to an unfrozen sea where her new railway will find a terminus at a port open all through the year.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

The opening of the West River is now officially assured. The event is one of great importance to Hongkong and will in course of time add considerably to the trade of the colony. Perhaps the traffic may not at once assume very large proportions, but it will steadily grow, for large consuming and producing districts will be tapped, and the native mercantile classes will soon begin to appreciate the new facilities. According to Reuter's message the opening is not to take place immediately, but is to stand over

pending the settlement of the Yunnan frontier. It is not improbable, however, that the Chinese may anticipate their legal obligations in this instance and open the river forthwith, as it would be to the advantage of the Peking Government, if not to that of the Provincial Government, to do so. As to the edict which has been issued, Reuter tells us a great deal less than we would like to know. Is the river to be opened only to Wuchow, or beyond, and what other towns, if any, beside Wuchow are to be declared treaty ports? These are questions that at once suggest themselves, but to which no answer is as yet forthcoming. And bound up with the West River question is the question of transit passes. Supposing Wuchow to be the limit, the value of the concession will be largely determined by the decision whether goods can be carried further under the protection of transit passes or whether the existing squeeze system is to continue. It is probable that at present, even if allowed to do so, steamers would not try to proceed beyond Wuchow, for the navigability of the upper reaches of the river by steamers is as yet uncertain. That, however, constitutes in itself no sufficient reason why towns situated higher up should not be opened to foreign trade, which could be carried on if necessary in native craft, as in the case of Chungking.

The general impression locally seems to be that the opening of the river as far as Wuchow constitutes the sum and substance of the concession. If that should prove to be correct it will not be long before an agitation for the opening of Nanning, Posé, and other places is set on foot, unless in the meantime the transit pass question should be satisfactorily settled. Mr. ANDREW's case at Wuchow has brought that question to an issue, and Mr. ANDREW is to be congratulated on the persistency with which he has stuck to his point. The Chamber of Commerce has supported him by making representations to the Marquis of SALISBURY, and there can be little doubt the decision will be given in his favour and that he will be duly indemnified for his losses. That will establish a precedent on which other merchants can act and it may also lead to the issue of general instructions protecting transit pass goods throughout Kwangtung and Kwangsi. Judging from the present disposition of the Kwangtung Government, however, it is to be feared there will always be trouble with respect to transit passes within its jurisdiction, whatever instructions may be issued, and hence the importance of trying to secure as many points as possible where direct foreign trade may be carried on, independently of whether they are accessible to steamers or not. Owing to the squeezes on the river foreign goods for Wuchow, instead of going direct, go via Pakhoi, thence overland to Hunghué, a place on the West River between Nanning and Wuchow, and then down stream, no duties being collected on foreign goods coming down the river. Nanning and Posé draw their supplies via Pakhoi and thence overland to Nanning, while everything from Hongkong to Yunnan is now sent via Haiphong and the Red River. In addition to Wuchow it would be well to have opened to foreign trade Kweilin, Nanning, Posé, and Kweichowfu.

Kweilin would open up an important trade with Hunan, Kweichow, and South Szechuen. In the letter addressed by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1893 on the subject of the West River the following passage occurs:—"Wuchow, being at the

"point where the Fu Ho debouches into the West River, is the natural port for the supply of Kweilin, the capital of Kwang-si, which is situated about 150 miles up the Fu Ho. Hitherto Kweilin has been sparsely supplied with piece goods, etc., under transit pass from Hankow, although its distance is more than three times greater than from Canton." From the fact of goods finding their way from Hankow to Kweilin under transit pass it may be inferred what a considerable expansion of the trade would take place were that city allowed to draw its supplies by the more direct route of the West River and the Fu Ho, but at present the squeezes on this route are so heavy as to make the trade impracticable. The other places we have mentioned above are all important centres of trade. In the letter of the Chamber of Commerce what was asked for was the opening of the West River to steamers of all nations, and the cities of Wuchow, Tsunchow, and Nanningfu to foreign trade. It is perhaps unfortunate that more open ports were not asked for, but one step leads to another, and if at present we are not to get even all the Chamber at that time thought desirable, but have to be content with the opening of Wuchow, that step once gained it will not be long before the necessity of opening other ports and trading stations makes itself felt. As to the trade prospects we may quote the following from the Chamber's letter:—"The development of the trade at the Yangtze ports and the stimulus given to industry and commerce since the Great River was opened to the Treaty Powers affords same criterion of what may be expected if the riverine ports in Kwangtung and Kwangsi are brought within reach of the outside world. At Chungking, the last port on the Yangtze at which Foreigners have been permitted to reside for purposes of trade, and in spite of the relinquishment of the rights acquired by treaty in regard to reaching it by steamers, the development has been remarkable, and the value of its commerce has attained by last Customs returns to the figures of Haikwan Taels 5,780,000 imports and Taels 3,470,000 exports."

THE NEW MINISTER AND PENDING QUESTIONS

By the next English mail steamer Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, the new British Minister to China, will arrive. The opportunity should be taken to press upon His Excellency the views and wishes of the Hongkong community. It is usual when a British Minister passes through the colony for the Chamber of Commerce to seek an interview with him, either as a body or by deputation, and it is especially important that there should be an interview at the present juncture, when grave questions of the utmost importance to local interests are pending. But some of those questions come more appropriately within the domain of the China Association, which is an exclusively British body, whereas the Chamber of Commerce is a cosmopolitan body which has on more than one occasion passed over the British Minister to address its communications to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps. As all the British members of the Chamber of Commerce are or ought to be members of the China Association it might perhaps be well if the duty of communicating with Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD as he passes through were left altogether to the latter body. As His Excellency will presumably go on by the same

steamer he arrives by his stay in the colony will not extend over twenty-four hours and he will hardly have time to receive different deputations travelling over the same ground. It is important, therefore, that some definite and well arranged programme should be arranged both as regards how the new Minister is to be approached and the subjects to which his intention is to be invited. For this purpose it would be well if general meetings both of the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association were held, not necessarily public meetings, to enable the respective committees to take counsel with the members at large as to the points to be urged, and the Committee of the China Association could then be officially informed of the views of the Chamber of Commerce and would be in a position to cover the whole ground in their interview with the Minister should His Excellency be able to accord one.

The principal matters inviting attention are the extension of the colony's frontiers, the opening of the West River, the enforcement of the transit pass clauses of the treaties, and the measures to be taken to foster British trade and prevent the preferential treatment of other nations. Minor matters, such as the levying of lower export duties on junk carried goods than those levied on goods carried by steamers, might also be touched upon. As to the necessity of securing an extension of our frontiers there is but one opinion in the colony, alike amongst the merchants and the naval and military departments, but it is to be feared that the home authorities have not fully appreciated the importance of the question. It would assist our case if Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD could be convinced that immediate action is necessary in the matter, as he would then be able to add his representations to those already made. The West River question, so far as the opening of that stream to navigation is concerned, has been practically decided, but we do not yet know up to what point the river is to be opened, what places are to be declared treaty ports, nor whether there are to be any special regulations governing the trade. These are points on which an interchange of views with the Minister might be useful. With regard to the transit pass question, the importance of enforcing compliance with the provisions of the treaty cannot be too strongly represented, and incidentally Mr. JOHN ANDREW's case and the just claim he has to an ample indemnity should be brought to the Minister's notice. It might also be suggested that as the opening of the River has been agreed to it would be a good thing to send a gunboat up to Wuchow at once, to ascertain how far the survey made by Lieut. BALLOCK still holds good or what alterations in the bed of the stream have occurred, to familiarise the people with the sight of the British flag, and to support Mr. ANDREW's claim to be allowed freely to dispose of his goods. As to the measures to be adopted for the furtherance of British trade in general, the British merchants of Hongkong ought to be able to offer valuable suggestions. The home Government is now fully alive to the importance of fostering trade by every legitimate means and Mr. BRENNAN has been appointed on a special mission to enquire into the matter, but there is no reason why Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's attention should not also be invited to it, for a general enlightenment of all the officials in any way concerned is desirable.

An attempt should also be made to make the interview serve the purpose of establishing a closer relationship and

warmer sympathy between this colony and the Legation than has hitherto existed. It is said that the Legation staff, while not actively unfriendly to Hongkong, regard us somewhat in the light of uitlanders, to whom a benevolent toleration may be extended, but for whom no genuine sympathy is entertained. With the Treaty Ports the Legation is in constant communication and touch through the Consuls, but with Hongkong communication is only held at long intervals when special questions arise, and the colony's interests are regarded as lying somewhat outside the Minister's sphere, not officially, of course, but as a matter of common everyday sentiment. When questions are officially brought forward they have to be officially dealt with, but there is, so it is alleged, not the same heart put into them as is put into matters referred from the Treaty Ports by the Consuls. If Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's active sympathy with the fortunes of Hongkong could be enlisted it might possibly make matters run more smoothly and easily when it is necessary to address His Excellency officially on particular points.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The papers on the proposed reconstruction of the Sanitary Board will be found in another column. They include the letter from the Chamber of Commerce (published some time ago but which we reproduce to make the series complete), the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, and the written opinions of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council who were then in the colony. The Hon. J. J. KESWICK, Hon. C. P. CHATER, and Hon. A. MCCONACHIE recommended the reconstruction of the Board with three official and two unofficial members; the Hon. E. R. BELLIOS objected to having any unofficial members on the Board at all if there was to be an official majority; and the Hon. HO KAI urged that reconstitution of the Board was unnecessary and that what it urgently required was enlarged power and increased staff. The position taken up by Messrs. CHATER, KESWICK, and MCCONACHIE rests on a fallacy. They were of opinion that the defect in the existing arrangements was an absence of responsibility and that this could be cured by making the Government responsible. But Hongkong does not possess responsible government, and to make the change proposed by the three hon. members who formed the majority would *ipso facto* destroy what little measure of responsibility before existed. To make the Government responsible is to make no one responsible, because the Government is irresponsible. This is not a mere play upon words. The hon. members did not use the word "responsible" in the sense we have used it, but they used it in a wrong sense and their conclusions are thereby vitiated. An irresponsible body cannot be made at the same time responsible. We agree that responsibility is what is wanted, but that can only be secured by making the officials responsible to a Board which shall in turn be responsible to the ratepayers. The colony has had fifty years' experience of the ill-effects of irresponsibility in public sanitation and it is high time that a system of responsibility were tried. But there is no responsibility to be got out of a Government that is irresponsible.

Attention may be usefully directed to the third paragraph of Mr. KESWICK's letter. As Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce he had previously signed a letter on behalf

of the Committee of that body which was understood to be intended as an indictment of the Sanitary Board. In the letter embodying his views as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council he very gracefully admits that "from its very nature it is impossible that the Board, as now existing, can adequately fulfil those functions expected of it, or that it can be held fully responsible for any inefficiency in the sanitation of the colony." From that the conclusion should be, not that responsibility should be done away with altogether, but that enlarged powers should be given to the Sanitary Board, and that it should be made altogether an elective body.

SHOULD THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE BE ENDOWED.

The unsympathetic tone adopted by some of the unofficial members of Council towards the scheme for the erection of a building for the College of Medicine for Chinese and the endowment of the institution will not, we think, be endorsed by the community. The enthusiasm which pervaded the meeting at which the College was inaugurated will still be fresh in the memory of those who were present, and at the meeting held the other day to present farewell addresses to Dr. CANTLIE all the references made to the College and its work were received with marks of approval. At the inaugural meeting of the College in 1887 Deputy Surgeon-General LEWER made the following very sensible remarks, which will well repay perusal at the present time:—"Lately when the Public Health Bill was under discussion I was reading the proceedings in the daily papers, and I was very much astonished to find so much lethargy and apathy displayed by some of our citizens on that subject. Men spend sums of money, which they never enjoy, in insuring their lives, yet they refuse or seem to refuse to incur any little additional expense by way of sanitary improvement that may produce a little greater longevity or enhanced health. Surely it is much better to pay a small sum annually so as to ensure that those whom we hold near and dear may be kept in good health. Let us hope that by the establishment of this College, with its professorship of hygiene and public health, there will be disseminated such a knowledge of the science and principles of sanitation that when it becomes necessary to launch another Public Health Bill we shall see it hailed with acclamation on all sides." The instruction of the Chinese in the science of hygiene and in the practice of Western medicine seems to us a plain duty and ought to appeal to the Government and the public, as well on prudential as humanitarian grounds. The insanitary condition into which the city was allowed to fall has inflicted incalculable loss on the colony, from which we are still suffering at the present time. Large sums are being expended and very drastic measures taken to improve matters, but, as the Hon. HO KAI points out in his able memorandum published amongst the official correspondence which appeared in our yesterday's issue, everything cannot be accomplished by legislation; much must be left to education.

The Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese is an educative agency which, if adequately supported, will have very valuable practical effects in the colony. The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, with his well known generosity, has offered to provide a site and building for the institution at a cost of \$40,000 provided the Government will give an endow-

ment of a similar sum. The question is whether that offer is to be accepted or not. The objections urged to it are two: first, that the Government is at present not in a position to make a grant of \$40,000, and, in the second place, if funds were available, that they are more urgently required for other much needed public works, as for instance, a new Post Office. We agree that the existing Post Office is inadequate to the requirements of the colony and that a new one is badly wanted. Still, the fact remains that our letters are daily mailed and delivered and the service can if necessary be continued in the existing building for some time to come. We see no reason, however, why the erection of the proposed new Public Offices, including Post Office, should not be proceeded with at once, and that without in any way affecting the proposed grant to the College of Medicine. The colony is perfectly solvent and the provision of funds is simply a question of financing. The cost of resuming the Taipingshan area has denuded the Treasury of ready cash, but money can be had whenever it is wanted.

At the opening of the Legislative Session H.E. the Governor stated that the cost of the Taipingshan resumption amounted to \$821,000. Of this sum \$386,000 had been defrayed from the balances in hand, and the remainder had been borrowed from Loan and other Government monies in the custody of the Crown Agents, which was considered preferable to raising a further loan or to an overdraft on the local Banks. As regarded the liquidation of the outstanding balance of \$435,000 on Taipingshan account, His Excellency said that he anticipated for 1895 a surplus of revenue over expenditure of some \$220,000, by which amount the indebtedness would be reduced, so that the year 1896 should begin with a debit balance on this account of \$215,000 only. In consequence of the improvement of Taipingshan a large area of land will probably be ready for sale in the course of this year, and with an expanding revenue it is to be hoped that the debit balance will disappear at the end of 1896. Then, again, 1897 should witness extensive land sales in Taipingshan. His Excellency was justified, therefore, in considering the state of affairs "both satisfactory and hopeful," and under the circumstances there appears to be no reason for adopting an excessively parsimonious policy in the administration of the public funds. If ready cash were urgently required we have no doubt the Government would be able to make arrangements with local capitalists to take Taipingshan entirely off its hands at once. No such extreme step is necessary, however, and the Government would be fully justified, so far as its financial position is concerned, in making the grant asked for to the College of Medicine. The only question, therefore, is whether the object would justify such a grant, and to that we think the community if polled would give an emphatically affirmative answer. In this matter we owe a duty to our Chinese fellow residents, and, moreover, as the money would come from the rates it would come for the most part out of native pockets. For the Government to deprive the Chinese of the benefit of Mr. BELILIOS's munificent offer would be a great mistake. As to the alternative scheme of an annual grant, we consider Mr. BELILIOS is fully entitled to hold to the terms of his offer and ask for an out and out endowment, because an annual grant is precarious and might be withdrawn at any time.

THE LEGATION REPORT ON TRADE WITH JAPAN.

A very interesting report on the trade of Japan for the quarter ended the 30th September last, with a postscript dealing with the trade for October, has been written by Mr. LONGFORD, the British Vice-Consul at Tokyo. The promptitude with which the report has been prepared and published is worthy of all praise, and of the quality of the report we cannot speak too highly. The Foreign Office is evidently becoming alive to the importance of the early publication of information on trade, and Mr. LONGFORD's report shows, as did also the recently published report of Mr. BEAUCLERK on the trade of China, that the officials on whom the duty of preparing the reports falls are not wanting in the requisite ability. Mr. LONGFORD takes an almost entirely hopeful view of the commercial position and anticipates that the present improvement in trade is an earnest of a greater one to come and that for several years yet a steadily increasing and profitable trade may be looked for both by Japan and foreign countries dealing with her. To show how the country is progressing in a commercial sense he institutes a comparison with China. We are told that ten, or perhaps even five, years ago it would not have entered into anyone's comprehension to compare the direct foreign trade of either Yokohama or Kobe with that carried on at any of the principal ports in China, still less to venture on either hope or prophecy that the time would come, and come speedily, when the comparison might be made greatly to the advantage of the Japanese ports. Yet we find now that the two ports named are now distanced only by Shanghai. For the four months ended 31st October last the foreign trade of Yokohama amounted to \$55,501,296 and that of Hyogo (including Osaka) to \$36,464,987. Taking the annual returns of the China trade for the year 1894 as a basis, and calculating the Haikwan tael as equal to \$1½ of Japanese currency, it is found that the average value of the direct foreign trade carried on at six principal ports in China during each period of four months in 1894 was as follows:—Shanghai \$77,541,874, Canton \$14,759,814, Amoy \$6,504,897, Swatow \$5,425,377, Tientsin \$5,578,585, and Foochow \$4,588,566. A comparison of these figures with those of the two principal Japanese ports shows how the latter have progressed, and it is satisfactory to be told that British trade has done more than maintain its previous share in the whole and has fully participated in the increase.

Mr. LONGFORD devotes one of the sections of his report to the commercial ambition of the Japanese, and says that "Commercial and industrial questions are now almost as popular subjects of treatment, both in the Press and by public speakers, as the most urgent political questions, whether foreign or domestic. Among them are such matters as the extension of existing steam routes; the results of treaty revision on trade, insurance, establishment of technical and commercial schools, the training of officers and men for the mercantile marine, improvement of chambers of commerce and of the existing system of trade guilds; the despatch of commissioners to study commercial conditions abroad; placing Japanese in commercial houses and factories in foreign countries in order to learn thoroughly their system of business; the establishment of a floating exhibition of Japanese products; the effect on the

"trade of Japan of the opening of the Siberian Railway and the Nicaraguan Canal, when Japan may become one of the greatest commercial centres of the world, etc." That questions like these should engage the attention of the Japanese is hopeful and satisfactory. There is one feature in the present trend of thought in Japan which is less hopeful and satisfactory, but which is not noticed by Mr. LONGFORD, namely, a tendency to rely on a vicious system of protection and bounties to foster trade. As regards protection the hands of the Government are tied to a great extent by the treaties, the establishment of a conventional tariff having been made one of the terms on which treaty revision was assented to; but Japan tried to have the duties fixed as high as she could and in the case of sugar, the trade in which so closely affects Hongkong, she succeeded in establishing a rate that may possibly prove protective when it comes into force.

Speaking of sugar Mr. LONGFORD says that there was "a largely increased import in quantity but a decrease in value, owing to lower prices consequent on a decrease in the cost of production of white sugar in the Hongkong refineries." But unfortunately the lower selling prices did not, as Mr. LONGFORD seems to think, mean a lower cost of production, as the report of the China Sugar Refining Co., Limited, only too plainly shows. Happily there has since been a change in the conditions and the trade in this important staple is again being conducted on a remunerative basis. What will happen when the revised treaty with its new tariff comes into force remains to be seen, but there is good reason to believe that by that time the increase of the China market will make up for any falling off there may be in the demand from Japan. True it has been urged that when refineries are established in Japan they will carry the war against the Hongkong refineries into the China market, but as to the ability of the latter to hold their own we have never had any doubt, and we find our opinion on that point confirmed by what Mr. LONGFORD has to say on the prospects of another industry, namely, that of cotton spinning and weaving. He argues that the establishment of factories at Shanghai will close the China market to Japanese yarn and says it is not likely that much consolation will be afforded by the success of the Japanese companies that may be established in Shanghai. "Expensive management is a weak point in nearly all Japanese commercial undertakings, and, all other things being equal, this alone will give the European a very substantial advantage over Japanese owned companies in China. There may be room for all at first, but if the industry succeeds more European capital will speedily be devoted to it and unless the Japanese improve their system of management so as to make it less expensive than the European they may in the end have to give way." or at least be satisfied with smaller returns on their invested capital than they expect, and can easily obtain, in their own country." Similar arguments would apply in the case of the sugar industry. The Japanese refineries may secure an advantage in the markets of their own country, but that they will be able to compete with the Hongkong refineries in China or elsewhere we do not regard as in the least likely. Now do we think the bounty system that Japan is about to apply for the encouragement of her shipping trade will in the long run materially affect foreign shipping, although for a time there will no

doubt be a sharp conflict inflicting loss all round, and especially on Japan herself. The experience of the effect of shipping bounties in other countries has not been such as to favour belief in their efficacy for the purpose for which they are intended.

TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

In his recently published report on the trade of Japan Mr. LONGFORD speaks disparagingly of the prospects of a large market for Australian products being found in that country. "The value of imports from Australia is still very insignificant," says Mr. LONGFORD, "amounting to only \$193,000 in the quarter under review, and to \$520,000 for the nine months of the current year. Insignificant though it is, however, it has been a steadily increasing one since 1891, but neither this increase nor anything in the present or prospective requirements of Japan warrants the extravagant hopes, which now seem to be entertained in Australia, as to very speedily finding or creating a profitable and extensive market for her productions here. That a considerable trade may be developed between the two countries is possible, but if so its main feature will be that of exports from Japan to Australia." An enumeration of the articles Japan can supply is given, concluding with the statement that if the people of Australia seek cheapness without being particular as to durability, Japan can also soon supply them with a hundred articles which they either now make for themselves or import from England or Germany, matches, boots, saddlery, harness, portmanteaux, hats, etc., all of which Japan could furnish to them at less than half the prices which they would have to pay for European prototypes. The interest of the report, so far as this section of it is concerned, lies, however, rather in the remarks on what Australia can supply to Japan than *vice versa*. Japan has, Mr. LONGFORD says, at present absolutely no requirements that Australia could supply which are not already satisfactorily met by the much nearer United States, and it is improbable that, unless tempted by lower prices, Japanese buyers, who are, it is to be remarked, strongly attracted to the people of the United States by sentimental reasons, and also by the further consideration that they are by far Japan's best customer for all the great staples of her export trade, will ever seek in Australia articles which they can obtain in less time and equally good from the States.

We are not inclined to think Mr. LONGFORD a true prophet in this matter. He himself shows what surprises take place in trade when he says that ten or perhaps even five years ago it would not have entered into anyone's comprehension to compare the direct foreign trade of either Yokohama or Tokyo with that carried on at any of the principal ports in China, still less to venture on either hope or prophecy that the time would come, and come speedily, when the comparison might be made greatly to the advantage of the Japanese ports. Yet that has now come about. Ten or perhaps even five years hence Mr. LONGFORD may have to write in a similar strain of the trade from Australia to Japan, which, although small at present, is rapidly growing. For the first nine months of the present year, as above mentioned, it amounted in value to \$520,000, and, assuming the same proportion to be observed in the concluding quarter,

it would amount for the year to \$690,000. The comparison for the last three years would then stand as follows:—1893, \$319,634; 1894, \$533,900, 1895, \$650,000. A trade that more than doubles itself in three years appears to have favourable prospects before it. In an interview with a representative of this journal twelve months ago Mr. E. JEROME DYER, who was then on a commercial mission to the Far East accredited by the Government of Victoria and the Chambers of Commerce of Sydney and Melbourne, gave an enumeration of Australian products which he considered would find a market in Japan, his opinion being based on a careful investigation of Japan's growing industries. Japan, Mr. DYER said, would import Australia's wool and send back woollen manufactures; hides, skins, and leather, and return bags, boots, and other manufactures; bones, and return brushes and such like goods; hoofs, and return imitation tortoiseshell in the shape of combs, etc.; sandal and other woods, and return furniture and wood ornaments; pearl shell, and send back wares made therefrom; glue, and return wood matches (in the manufacture of which glue plays the chief part); tallow, and return soaps and candles; jute, flax, and hemp (in course of time), and return carpets, cordage, etc.; noil and rabbit hair, and return hats; lead, tin, etc., and return metal wares.

It is expected, however, that wool will form the chief staple of Australia's export trade to Japan. But before raw wool can be imported in large quantities, Mr. LONGFORD says, factories in which it can be manufactured must be established, and though the present eagerness of Japanese capitalists to embark in industrial undertakings is almost feverish, there are too many fields open to them for supplying well defined wants among their countrymen to leave the least temptation to them to venture on those which must be purely speculative. Two woollen factories at present exist in Tokyo. One is a Government undertaking, and all its output is absorbed by Government requirements for the army and navy. The second, which was originated a few years ago on a very small scale by a Japanese who had studied the wool manufacture in Germany, and has only recently been converted into a company, manufactures shawls and blankets for general sale. Its output cannot as yet be on a large scale, and it may be said, therefore, that for all woollen goods used by them the Japanese have heretofore been entirely dependent on foreign imports. "Australian wool producers," Mr. LONGFORD continues, "who now glibly talk of teaching the Japanese to discard cotton for wool might also remember that, if they succeed in their proposed effort, for every pound of wool sent to Japan 11b. less must be sent to England or Germany, which, failing the manufacture in Japan, will continue to supply all the latter's requirements." The last remark is not characterised by that sound sense which marks Mr. LONGFORD's report as a whole. Trade is not a fixed and invariable quantity, any increase of which in one direction must be compensated by a corresponding decrease in another. On the contrary, it is capable of illimitable expansion, and Australia need not fear that by finding a market for her wool in Japan she will lose as much in other markets. The cheap importation of wool and the establishment of manufactories for working it into cloth will encourage the use of woollen clothing in Japan, and with the growth of prosperity in that country and the general raising of

the standard of living which appears to be taking place, it may reasonably be anticipated that the trade in this particular article will before long assume considerable proportions.

LI HUNG-CHANG'S VISIT TO HONGKONG.

H.E. Li Hung-chang will pass through Hongkong next week on his way to Europe. His stay in Hongkong will be short, but he will probably have a clear day in which he would be at liberty to see such sights as the colony has to offer or to accept any entertainment to which he might be invited. We notice a suggestion in the *Hongkong Telegraph* that the community of this colony, the first foreign port he will touch at, should "give him a hearty welcome and prove to him that he is known and respected out of China as well as within its limits, and that foreigners have nothing for him but the best wishes and the kindest feelings." His Excellency represents his sovereign, he is going to Europe on an important mission, and while passing through this colony every possible courtesy should be observed towards him from an official point of view. To attempt anything in the way of a public demonstration in his honour, however, would be a hollow mockery. Personally His Excellency is unknown to the community and his political career has not been such as to excite universal admiration; but the present would be an inappropriate time to go into details on that subject. His Excellency is a man of strong character and extraordinary ability and like all men of marked individuality he cannot fail to inspire interest. The community of Hongkong, however, will, it is to be hoped, not feign to entertain sentiments towards him that do not generally exist.

SUPREME COURT.

17th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

CHEW SON KWONG v. CHEUNG KAM TIN, \$200.

Judgment was given in this case, in which the plaintiff sued to recover money lent to the wife of the defendant.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. Ho Wyson, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. Robinson, instructed by Mr. C. Ewens, for the defendant.

His Lordship said—This is an action against a husband to recover money lent to his wife living apart from him. In this case the husband and wife had separated under circumstances to which I will refer later on. The wife got in arrear with her rent and the landlord distrained, and the furniture, which belonged to the husband, was seized. The wife thereupon borrowed \$200 from the plaintiff, the landlord was paid off, and the furniture released. The question therefore is whether under the circumstances of the case the husband is liable to repay the loan. At the hearing the first point raised was whether there ever had been a loan. As to this I simply say that the evidence entirely establishes the plaintiff's story and that the suggestion of collusion in this and previous cases against the defendant was not supported by a tittle of evidence, and I imagine was not seriously relied on by counsel. It was then alleged that after the separation, which took place on or about January 29th, 1892, an agreement was come to between the husband and wife that he should pay and she should accept \$40 a Chinese month, and that he should be relieved from all further liability in respect of her. The wife absolutely denies that there was such an arrangement. It was admitted by

Mr. Francis, who appeared for the plaintiff, that if such an arrangement had been come to, the plaintiff could not succeed in this action. It appears that in November, 1893, the wife sued her husband for maintenance money, and during the course of the suit, at the suggestion of Mr. Justice Ackroyd, the parties met in his Chambers for the purpose of arranging matters, but according to the minute in the book no settlement was arrived at. Again, in January, 1894, the defendant was sued before the same Judge for money lent to the wife for the purchase of necessaries, and judgment was given for the plaintiff. The minute in the Judge's note book is as follows:—"Mr. Phillippo (who appeared for the defendant) says he is willing to pay \$720 for back allowance, and from the 6th of February \$40 a month." This is practically what the defendant relies on as evidence of the alleged agreement, but it must be remarked that there is nothing in the Judge's notes to show that the offer was accepted, and I cannot help thinking that the learned Judge, having had in his mind, as he must have had, his previous attempt at a settlement, would not have omitted to record the acceptance of the offer, seeing that such acceptance would have put an end to all future litigation. I am therefore of opinion that the defendant has not proved the existence of any such agreement. The next question to be considered is whether the defendant is bound to make an allowance to his wife; in other words, whether the separation was owing to the misconduct of the husband or of the wife. The defendant alleges that his wife was a woman of violent disposition, that she was addicted to drink, that she assaulted a servant girl, that she quarrelled with his concubines, and that as a climax she struck him on the head with a piece of wood in the presence of one of his foks on January 29th, 1892, and that it was in consequence of this last-mentioned assault that he finally made up his mind to live with her no longer. The wife admits the quarrel with the concubines, but I cannot see that any such quarrel would justify the defendant in abandoning his wife and depriving her of the benefit of his society. The wife totally denies the assault on the defendant and states that the separation arose from the fact that she complained to her husband of his devoting his time and money to certain concubines whom he had set up in a separate establishment without her knowledge and consent, and this has been her defence all along. With reference to this last point the defendant states that he has had these concubines for many years and that his wife was well aware of their existence, and on the evidence I am of opinion that such was the case. I may mention that according to the Judge's notes in a case that was heard in July, 1892, the wife stated that she had known of the existence of these concubines for five years, a statement which she repeated in another case in December, 1893. I have already said that the quarrel with the concubines did not justify the defendant in leaving his wife as he did, and I am further of opinion that his conduct would be equally unjustifiable if it was the result of ordinary irritation displayed by his wife arising from jealousy of these women. It remains therefore to be considered whether the wife did assault her husband on January 29th, 1892, as alleged, and whether the assault was of such a serious nature as to justify him in leaving her as he did. In order to consider this question properly it will be necessary to look at the married history of this couple as it appears from the evidence in this case. These two were married some twenty-seven years ago and lived together at Foochow, Shami, and in various houses in Hongkong, down to the end of January, 1892 (i.e., the end of the 17th Chinese year), in peace and harmony. It is true that some general evidence was given to the effect that the wife was bad-tempered, but there is no evidence that before the last-mentioned date the defendant had ever shown any desire to separate from his wife. Now we come to the date of the alleged assault. The defendant's version is that at the end of the 17th Chinese year his wife came to 19, Wellington Street, where he was with some foks, and demanded \$100 to enable her to go to Canton; that on his refusal to give it an altercation took place, and that she pushed him and then struck him on the head with a

piece of wood so severely that the scar is visible at the present day. In support of this story he produced a witness who stated that he was present and saw the assault and that he went for a doctor. Another witness also stated that, hearing a disturbance, he went in and saw the wife with a piece of wood in her hand and the defendant holding his hand to his head. The wife totally denies the assault. Now this assault is alleged to have taken place in January, 1892, but it is not until July, 1895, in the course of an action brought against him by one Wong Yik Wan, that he seems to have recollected this serious assault. It is not even then set up as a defence, although the defendant was represented by counsel, but seems to have slipped out by chance on re-examination. The defence was based in that case on allegations of general violence and intemperance. This is all the more curious as the defendant had several opportunities, between January, 1892, and July, 1895, of referring to the assault. In June, 1892, the defendant and his wife were sued for money lent to the wife, but the defendant never alluded to the assault, although it had taken place only four or five months before. In May, 1893, the defendant and his wife were sued before Mr. Justice Ackroyd for necessaries supplied to the wife, but not a word did he say about the assault. This decision was appealed from, and in the course of his judgment affirming the decision the Chief Justice is reported in the *China Mail* of August 9th, 1893, to have said, "That the defendant left his wife, for apparently no fault, in January, 1892, and had not supplied her with a cent;" and again "that defendant had clearly made no offer (of 'maintenance'), and that defendant is stated to have said that he would only give an allowance if his wife agreed to certain terms as to his conduct with regard to other women." Mr. Justice Ackroyd said that \$30 a month was not enough, and at that time it must be remembered that the defendant was paying \$16 a month for rent as well. Again, in January, 1894, defendant was sued for money lent to his wife to procure necessaries, and counsel on his behalf apparently consented to a judgment against his client—again there is no mention of the assault. We then come to suit No. 1,099, of 1895, in which the assault is first mentioned, and that, as I have said, only in re-examination. I find in the Judge's notes that the defendant in his examination in chief distinctly states that he left his wife because she sued him and the learned Judge in his written judgment says that it was not alleged that the separation was by mutual consent and that "in consequence of a law suit the husband left his wife against her will and that the living apart was caused by the husband's misconduct alone and that \$40 a month was not enough." The learned Judge apparently was not much impressed by the evidence given as to the assault. An unsuccessful attempt was made to get a rehearing and in support of that attempt an affidavit was filed setting forth for the first time the defence as set forth in the present case. Of course the various dicta above quoted do not bind me, inasmuch as they were founded on the evidence given in each particular case, but they go to show that the defendant's lines of defence have extended with time and it would be curious to note how far they will have extended in another five years. For the above reasons I hold that the defendant has not convinced me that the alleged assault ever took place, and even supposing that it did it would appear that the defendant himself treated it as a trivial matter and never thought of it until at his wife's end for a defence. That being so it is perfectly clear that the defendant abandoned his wife without any reasonable cause and that he is bound to provide her with an allowance sufficient to maintain her in a style suitable to the wife of a man in his position of life. Now it is admitted that since January, 1892, the defendant for almost two years paid (whether under compulsion or not) \$30 a month to his wife and \$16 a month for rent and that after that he has paid her at the rate of \$40 without rent a month up to the present time, and the question now is whether that allowance is a sufficient one, and in order to decide that it will be necessary to look at the defendant's position and resources. It will, however, be convenient to dis-

pose of a small point raised by the defendant's counsel. After the separation the wife continued to live at 46, Hollywood Road (the defendant paying the rent), until December, 1893, at which date she removed to No. 50, Hollywood Road, in consequence, as she said, of the bad state of repairs in No. 46. The defendant alleges that this was without his consent and against his wishes and that therefore he is not legally bound to maintain her at all. However, the original fault was on his side and as (although he was aware of the change about the end of 1893) he never in any way notified to her his disapproval of the move. I do not consider that he is absolved from his liability to suitably maintain her. In considering the amount of the allowance Mr. Robinson argued that \$40 a month was sufficient, and in support of that argument he went into the various items of the defendant's annual expenditure, showing that there was very little margin left and that therefore the defendant could not afford to pay a larger sum. Mr. Francis, on the other side, said that it was not correct to look at what a man saved a year, but that you ought to look at his gross receipts, less the cost of earning them, and this seems to me to be the proper course. If Mr. Robinson's argument is correct, it seems to me that a man might spend all his income in extravagant living and then say that he could not afford to allow his wife, who was living apart from him through no misconduct on her part, any allowance at all. If a man chooses to live so close up to his income as to be unable to make his wife an adequate allowance, he must simply reduce his other expenditure. It is admitted that the defendant allowed his wife \$30 a month and paid the rent, \$16, whilst she lived at No. 46, Hollywood Road. After that he only paid her at the rate of \$40 and gave no rent, so that in fact he has reduced her allowance. The defendant is *compradore* to Messrs. Meyer & Co. and apart from what he makes as such *compradore*, which he states never exceeded \$2,000 a year, he has house property worth about \$87,000 and his liabilities amount to \$48,500. I am of opinion that he has underestimated his profits from the *compradore's* business, and I find that one of his witnesses who was in an inferior position to him in the same firm has managed to amass from one source or the other about \$60,000. I have carefully gone through the defendant's evidence relating to his property and income, and taking into consideration the fact that he abandoned his wife without any reasonable cause I am of opinion that \$40 a month is not a sufficient allowance, but it is not necessary for me to fix what in my opinion would be a proper one. I may mention also that the amount claimed in this case was advanced to prevent the defendant's own furniture from being sold under a *distrain*. A number of cases were cited on both sides and I have looked into them. They were chiefly on the point as to whether the defendant was justified in leaving his wife or not, but in the face of the conclusion I have come to on this point I do not think it is necessary to touch on them in detail. I may mention the case of *Wilson and others v. Ford* and another (L. R. 3 Ex. 63) with reference to the *distrain* and the case of *Forth v. Forth* (36 L. J. Prob. 122) with reference to the alleged assault. In that case there were frequent acts of cruelty. It only remains for me to repeat what I said before and which has been said on several previous occasions in this court, viz., that it is a great pity that the defendant and his wife cannot come to some mutual agreement and so put a stop to all this trouble. I do not suppose these remarks will have any effect, as I fancy that both husband and wife are somewhat obstinate. The defendant has had to pay a large fine for his legal experience. There will be judgment for plaintiff with costs.

LARCENY.

Lung Ting was charged on three counts with stealing \$20, \$5, and six pieces of clothing on the 7th January. He admitted stealing the money, but denied stealing the clothing, and this last charge was tried by the following jury:—Messrs. C. A. Rocha, Choy Chan, C. H. Thiel, W. H. Gaskell, C. A. H. Westerburger, J. Thomas, P. Graht.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-

General), instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended.

The prisoner took the clothes out of a box belonging to a man named Chan Sui and pawned them. The defence of the prisoner was that the clothes were lent to him. The jury found him guilty, and he was sent to gaol for twelve months on the first count, six months on the second count, the two sentences to run concurrently, and six months on the third count—eighteen months altogether.

MANSLAUGHTER.

Lo Hun and Chun Hin were charged with the manslaughter of a boy named Wong Hing. Prisoners pleaded not guilty and they were tried by the jury who were sworn in the first case.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) prosecuted, being instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor).

The Acting Attorney-General explained that on the evening of the 9th March the prisoners were engaged to drag a two-wheeled truck loaded with pork from a warehouse at West Point to the Western Market. As there was a fire in Queen's Road the prisoners could not go through part of that thoroughfare and they went round and came down East Street. Owing to the steepness of the incline and the weight of the pork the truck went down East Street with considerable momentum and the accused lost all control over it. They and a constable shouted, but unfortunately Wong Hing, who was standing in Queen's Road, could not get out of the way in time. The truck knocked him down and he was killed on the spot, his spleen and liver having been ruptured and his spine broken against a cross bar of some bamboo scaffolding.

His Lordship explained the law to the jury and asked them to find whether negligence of the prisoners was such as to make them guilty of manslaughter, or whether the case was one of accidental or excusable homicide.

The jury by a majority of six to one found the two prisoners guilty.

In passing sentence his Lordship said—I entirely concur with the verdict of the jury. You (prisoners) said you knew there was a fire in Queen's Road near East Street and you might have known that such a thoroughfare was the more likely to have many people in it. Yet you do not hesitate to run that heavily laden truck down a steep road like East Street, considering that having called out it was everybody's business to get out of your way. But other people had as much right to be in Queen's Road as yourselves and your truck, and among them was the poor boy whose sudden and terrible death you caused. Of course you did not mean to kill him; if you had done so your case might have been one of murder, but you killed him by your carelessness and negligent disregard of the safety of people in a public thoroughfare. Although I am sorry to have to sentence you, I must pass such a sentence as may act as a warning to others. The sentence is that each of you be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for four months.

19th March.

EXTRAORDINARY FORTUNE TELLING CASE.

Chan Kin Yau was charged with conspiring with two other men to defraud Chan Hak Tan of \$9,000, and also with obtaining four sums of money by false pretences with intent to defraud. The charges were also preferred in the first instance against two other men—not the conspirators—but they were discharged by proclamation, as no information had been filed against them.

Mr. J. J. Francis Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Dennys), appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Mounsey) represented the defendant.

The defendant pleaded not guilty and the following jury tried the case.—Messrs. C. A. Faber, E. F. Rozario, A. N. Rowe, J. M. Remedios, J. S. Watte, A. M. Barradas, and C. M. de Rozario.

The facts, as carefully explained to the jury by Mr. Francis, revealed a most extraordinary swindle. The defendant was charged on five counts. The first accused him of having, in

concert with two other men not in custody and who are supposed to be out of the colony, defrauded the complainant of \$9,000, and the second, third, fourth, and fifth counts charged him with having individually obtained four separate sums of money at different times from the complainant by means of false pretences with intent to defraud. Of course these four sums were included in the amount mentioned in the first count. Mr. Francis said the facts were a little complicated and therefore he would have to go into them in detail in order that the jury might fully understand the case. The complainant was a trader and carried on business as Chi Shiu Ho in the Yuen Pak Hong in Bonham Strand. On the 16th December last he was passing up Wellington Street when his attention was called to a fortune teller's shop at 138 by a man who was standing outside. He went to the first floor, where he found a man named Ng Ping Sam, who was surrounded by all the paraphernalia of a fortune teller. The complainant paid ten cents to have his fortune told in one form and eighty cents to have it told in another form. He was told that he was destined to die between that day and the incoming Chinese New Year in February. He went again on the 17th December to see the fortune teller, who had requested him to call and who said that something might be done towards prolonging his life beyond the Chinese New Year. Complainant gave \$3 to Ng Ping Sam for the purpose of purchasing incense and papers to be burnt at prayers in the temple. These things were purchased and made use of in the temple in Queen's Road, Wanchai, where certain ceremonies were gone through and prayers offered by the complainant and Ng Ping Sam. They then returned to 138, Wellington Street, where he was directed to apply the ashes of the burnt papers to the surface of a couple of sheets of red paper on which, before going to the temple, Ng Ping Sam had written certain characters. As soon as the ashes were rubbed over the papers a lot of Chinese characters appeared which contained suggestions that the complainant should do some good works, one particular good work being that he should cause certain books to be purchased and distributed amongst the people about the LauFu mountains in the adjoining province. Ng Ping Sam asked for the sum of \$200 from the complainant for the purpose of purchasing these books. On 19th December complainant handed \$200 to Ng Ping Sam, who stated that he was going to the LauFu mountains and that he would be back about 24th December. While he was away he would make certain arrangements with the priests to distribute the books broadcast. But lest the complainant should speak to anyone in the meantime Ng Ping Sam gave him a book to read carefully and instructions to keep himself entirely indoors. Ng Ping Sam came back to Hongkong on the 25th December, and told complainant that he had bought 3,800 books, which the priests were employed in distributing as desired. He instructed the complainant to go to the second seat beyond the tramway station in Bowen Road and offer up certain prayers. On the 26th December they went together to the seat and complainant was given a piece of paper which apparently contained no writing. He was directed to put it on the ground and look steadily at it for half an hour. During that time a number of Chinese characters made their appearance on the paper, and the characters contained instructions for another good act to be performed with a view to the prolongation of his life. Complainant was to expend \$300 in the purchase of birds and animals which were to be set free—an act considered amongst certain sections of Chinese to be one of great charity. He was also to give \$50 to get himself enrolled in the temple on the LauFu mountains. That paper as well as the others, which were described as "spiritual papers," were returned to Ng Ping Sam, who reduced them to ashes. He was paid the \$350 and he then represented that he was going to Canton to purchase the animals and set them free, and to enroll the complainant's name on the LauFu mountains, which were not very far from the north of Canton. On the 2nd January Ng Ping Sam came back and represented that complainant was extremely lucky and fortunate, as he would have given to him "the gift of Heaven and the jewel of the earth."

The jewel of the earth was to be found near the Laufu mountains, but it was necessary in order to obtain actual possession of the treasure to pray to the five elements, which were gold, wood, rice, earth, and, curious to relate, bank notes. On the 2nd January he was given a piece of paper on which were written twenty-eight characters, which informed complainant that he must wear a girdle composed of the five elements, and for the purpose of properly constructing the girdle he must put into it \$1,400 in bank notes—\$50 for each character on the paper—and thirty-six taels weight of gold leaf. He was to put the girdle round his waist and take it to Ng Ping Sam. Complainant purchased the gold leaf for \$1,715, put it into the girdle, together with the \$1,400 in notes, and on the 9th January he wore it and went to the fortune teller's shop. On that day he met for the first time the second confederate, Chan Chun Cho, who was praying and reading the classics, and who was introduced to the complainant. It was then pointed out that it was absolutely essential in order to get possession of the very valuable treasure for Ng Ping Sam to go up to heaven to fetch it down. The treasure consisted of gold, diamonds, and jewels, and was worth \$1,800,000. While Ng Ping Sam was taking the excursion to heaven Chan Chun Cho would remain praying and complainant could communicate with him during Ng Ping Sam's absence. But there was a preliminary act to be performed. Ng Ping Sam could only succeed in getting to heaven by wearing the special girdle, and the foolish complainant willingly consented to transfer the girdle and its valuables from his own body to that of Ng Ping Sam. To give colour to the whole transaction and to make it look a grave and serious performance on the part of all concerned, both went to the Mau On Temple. Chan Chun Cho remaining behind praying for their success. The couple halted at the gate of the temple and there went through certain prayers and prostrations. Then Ng Ping Sam parted from the complainant after giving him instructions to pay earnest attention to Chan Chun Cho. Ng Ping Sam himself said he would be back in a few days with the treasure and the gift of heaven. He then strongly urged complainant, who might have got frightened, to take a ricksha ride round the Happy Valley before he went home, so by this means he could not for a time communicate with his friends and so prevent Ng Ping Sam's departure. Complainant took the ride and then went home. He had looked upon Ng Ping Sam for the last time. That night Ng Ping Sam went away and he has not been seen since. On the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th January the complainant went to 138, Wellington Street and saw Chan Chun Cho. On the 13th January Chan said the house was altogether too small and too mean to receive the great treasure and it was necessary to rent a better house in order to accommodate the treasure when it came. He added that Ng Ping Sam had gone to heaven to inquire about the great jewel and earthly treasure, but first of all \$250 was wanted for the purpose of renting a house. On that occasion a paper was produced which mentioned the name of Chan Mah Sun, who would be identified as Chan Kin Yau, the defendant. This was the first time his name had been mentioned by Chan Chun Cho. The complainant handed \$250 to Chan Chun Cho, who, finding the man so very credulous, explained that it was also necessary to have five small and five large gold coins. Ng Ping Sam, it appeared, had not got safely to heaven. He had stuck somewhere on the road—about half way up, and it was absolutely necessary for Chan Chun Cho to go to his assistance. Complainant bought the coins and gave them to Chan Chun Cho on the 14th January. On that day the defendant was in the sitting room of the fortune telling shop. On the 15th January complainant was induced to go again to Bowen Road and was told to sit on the second seat and hold a white paper over his head. He did so. Chan Chun Cho praying in the meanwhile. On being exposed to the air characters appeared on the paper and they had reference to the construction of a temple on the Laufu mountains, on which \$1,600 was to be expended—the money of course to be provided by the complainant. On the 17th January further difficulties

sprang up. It was necessary to buy or bribe twenty-eight spirits in order to get Ng Ping Sam safely back from heaven with the treasure. \$2,800 was required for this purpose, as Chan Chun Cho had to go to his assistance; if this was not done the complainant would surely die and the whole of the money already expended lost. On the 19th complainant handed Chan Chun Cho notes worth \$2,200 and a promissory note for \$600. Chan Chun Cho then disappeared to assist Ng Ping Sam and of course that was the last time he was seen. Before going he gave complainant certain instructions. Complainant went again to Bowen Road. This time he met the defendant whom he was told the consult. The defendant said the heavenly gift and the earthly jewel would arrive not later than the 24th January and they consisted of gold, silver, and diamonds of the value of over a million dollars. Another difficulty presented itself before actual possession of the treasure could be obtained. Before the transfer could be made three of his nearest ancestors must be present in the new house. The first and third had arrived all right, but the second had not. There was something wrong with his spirit, and the *fung shui* had to be adjusted in some way before the second ancestor could be released. Defendant proposed to make an examination of the grave. He wanted \$383 for the job. On the 10th January complainant paid him \$383. On the 21st defendant was honest enough to say he had expended only \$382 and gave back \$1 to the complainant. But he accompanied the return of the dollar with a request for \$5,000, which must be used to wrap the jewel in. Complainant had not \$5,000. Then \$2,500 would do. On the 22nd January, in order to assure him of an early realisation of all the promises made to him, the complainant was told that Ng Ping Sam had arrived with the treasure at the new house, and that he and Chan Chun Cho were earnestly praying for the complainant, as it was impossible for him at that moment to see the jewel. The complainant could not get the \$2,500, but on the 24th January he handed \$500 to the defendant, who gave him a small bottle containing a mixture of some description. On the 25th January the complainant met the defendant again in Bowen Road and a yellow and white paper was put into his hands. Chinese characters appeared on it, and they informed the complainant the gold and precious stones had arrived with the jewel, and that he must buy 1,800 pieces of yellow paper, which would cost \$463. The complainant, believing that the moment was at length at hand when he would be in possession of the treasure, handed the \$463 to the defendant between five and six o'clock on the same evening. Then he was told that a gold box was necessary to put the "precious paper" in and this gold box would cost \$370. On the 26th January complainant gave defendant \$370 and on the following day complainant was told that the gold box was not quite ready, but it would be ready on the 28th. He was instructed to go to Causeway Bay and stay there until seven p.m., and the precious jewels would be handed to him in the temple there. By this time things had been going so very far that the complainant's nephew, who was an assistant in his uncle's shop, had seen entries in the shop books referring to the payment of all these sums. There was no trace in the books of what had become of the money. He noticed that his uncle was muddled like a man in a trance and hardly knew what he was doing. The nephew followed the complainant to Bowen Road on the last two occasions on which he had gone there, and wisely communicated with the police. On the 27th the complainant himself became aware of the actual facts and found that he had been swindled of enormous sums of money. As soon as the police were informed they arrested the defendant. There was no doubt that he had told the complainant to go out to Causeway Bay in order to give himself the opportunity of getting clear out of the colony with his plunder without any interruption, like Ng Ping Sam and Chan Chun Cho. The police in their inquiries traced the defendant to a boarding house in another part of the town, where he was arrested. They were just in time. They found upon him two envelopes, one containing \$500 in notes and the other \$900 in notes. He

had packed up his goods and was going to leave the colony two or three hours later.

The complainant was called and bore out Counsel's opening statement. He said the whole of the transactions had cost him \$9,534. With the exception of \$1 he had received nothing in return for the money.

20th March.

The complainant, Chan Hak Tan, was cross-examined by Mr. Robinson, and other witnesses were called, but the case had not concluded when the Court adjourned.

21st March.

Two witnesses, one of whom said he was the defendant's brother, were called, and said the defendant was a man of good character and had formerly been in the Viceroy's yamen, from which he had gained a certificate, which was produced. After leaving the yamen about eight years ago defendant started in the stocking business and, as far as they knew, he had nothing to do with fortune telling.

Mr. Robinson then addressed the jury and, after noting various discrepancies in the evidence, said that taking the case generally, the complainant's story was a regular Munchausen one. It might be true either wholly or in part. It might be true that he had been swindled by Ng Pak Sam and Chan Chun Cho only, and not by defendant or any third man, and in this respect counsel dwelt on the fact that the evidence covered only two men and not three. There were certain facts which suggested that the story was entirely false. Complainant had said he was carrying on a sugar business as well as a business with Hankow, but he admitted with regard to the sugar business that he had never made up his accounts, that he did not know whether he had made a profit or loss, and that his liabilities amounted to \$6,000. With regard to his connection with a business in Hankow he had never sent in a general statement of accounts. On the other hand it was proved that he had been busy collecting money due for goods supplied by the Hankow firm and that he had borrowed money, all of which, he said, he had lost in the foolish manner described. Counsel suggested that the whole transaction looked like the act of an absolutely insolvent trader working out a pretty scheme with which to face his creditors, and reserving a nice little sum for himself which he might have handed over to his Hankow partner. Bearing in mind the recent miscarriage of justice counsel strongly urged the jury to be thoroughly convinced that this story of the complainant was true before they found defendant guilty.

His Lordship having summoned up,

The jury found a verdict of not guilty by six to one. In reply to his Lordship they said they were satisfied the complainant had been swindled, and that there was a conspiracy, but they were not satisfied that the prisoner was the man who had been referred to as the "old teacher."

The prisoner was then discharged.

At Shanghai on the 10th March seven semi-foreign houses in Miller Road were destroyed by fire. The houses, which are owned by Sing Cheong, are fully insured, as are also the contents of five. It is stated that the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, in which the contents were insured, intend contesting the claim, and a charge of incendiarism has been lodged in the Mixed Court. Shortly after the fire broke out two foreigners who happened to be at hand entered the burning houses and at considerable personal risk succeeded in rousing the inmates, who would otherwise in all probability have been burnt to death. On the 13th another fire occurred, this time in Foochow Road, and Nos. 442 to 451 were totally destroyed and five other houses and shops were more or less damaged by fire and water. The buildings, which are owned by Chinese, are insured in several different offices, but the contents, with the exception of those of four of the houses, were uninsured.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The following papers respecting the reconstitution of the Sanitary Board, which will be laid before the Legislative Council at its next meeting, have been forwarded to us for publication:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th October, 1894.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber, in their capacity as representatives of the commercial interests of this colony, deem it their duty as well as their privilege to address to your Excellency some observations on the recent terrible visitation of disease, which had such alarmingly fatal results, and which for some months so extensively disorganized the normal trade of the port.

The Committee gladly recognize the promptitude and the energy with which the Government, when the presence of the epidemic had once been fully demonstrated, set to work to repress the outbreak, and gratefully acknowledge the devotion and self-sacrifice of the military, navy, and volunteers who lent their valuable aid in this important work. It is with no little satisfaction the Committee express their belief that these gallant efforts have at length been crowned with complete success in stamping out the plague, which they sincerely hope may not appear again.

In view, however, of the lamentable loss of life, the utter derangement of the business of the port, involving enormous loss and inconvenience to those engaged therein, and the serious set-back to the prosperity of the colony not yet recovered from the severe financial blows dealt it by the dislocation of exchange, and the long period of depression following the unsound speculative policy of a few years ago, it now becomes important to enquire how far this last and crowning disaster was due to preventable causes, and, if so, to whom should be apportioned the blame and the responsibility.

In embarking on such an enquiry the Committee are actuated by a desire to bring to your Excellency's notice and attention some facts and suggestions thereon that may serve to prevent the perpetuation of a faulty and prefatory system, repetition of past errors, or possible perseverance in a policy of "drift" and procrastination.

The fact that the sanitation of the City of Victoria was far from satisfactory was officially recognized some fifteen years ago. It is only just to say that, long prior to such recognition attention had been earnestly called by the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Ayres, to the ever-increasing saturation of the soil by sewage, owing to bad drainage, and he predicted the calamity which has now taken place, if the evil were not abated. It was not, however, until 1881 that the official recognition of the impending danger took any concrete form, when Mr. Osbert Chadwick was commissioned to make a report on the sanitation of the colony, and in the following year the conclusions of this expert were given to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in some exhaustive reports. Lord Kimberley, when forwarding these reports early in 1883 to the Officer Administering the Government (Hon. W. H. Marsh), remarked in the fourth paragraph of his covering despatch:—

"What appears to me to be most urgent is that immediate steps should be taken to organize and enforce a thorough house to house and street to street service for the removal of night-soil, garbage, ashes, house sweepings, and rubbish of every sort."

Soon after the receipt of Mr. Chadwick's reports Mr. Marsh appointed a permanent Sanitary Board "to supervise and control the practical sanitation of the colony." The Board consisted of the Surveyor-General, the Registrar-General, and the Colonial Surgeon, with a sanitary inspector and staff. Three months later a Bill entitled "The Order and Cleanliness Amendment Ordinance" was passed by the Legislative Council. Section II. of this Ordinance empowered the Governor to constitute a permanent Sanitary Board, consisting of the official members above named, and two other unofficial members to be appointed by the Governor. Section III. gave powers to such Sanitary Board to abate overcrowding or filth, while section IV. conferred on the Board author-

ity to enter and inspect houses. In 1886 Mr. A. P. MacEwen and Dr. P. Manson were appointed by the Governor the first unofficial members of the Sanitary Board. The meetings of the Board as then constituted were held in private, and little was known of their work and progress, but it is certain they were usefully employed, and made recommendations concerning the Public Health Ordinance, which was read a first time in the Legislative Council on the 6th May, 1887. This highly important and greatly needed enactment, which, after a long discussion, was duly passed, sent to the Secretary of State, and approved by Her Majesty, contains all the powers necessary to secure the proper sanitation of the colony. By it the Sanitary Board is authorized to make bye-laws respecting—

- (a) Proper construction, trapping, ventilating, and maintaining of private house drains.
- (b) Cleansing, lime washing, and proper sanitary maintenance of all premises in the colony.
- (c) Closing of premises unfit for human habitation and the prohibition of their use as such.
- (d) Prevention of overcrowding in premises, &c.

Nuisance:—

- (a) Defective drains, want of light and ventilation, and accumulation of house refuse, dirt, or any unwholesome matter.
- (b) Any act, omission, or thing which is or may be dangerous to life or injurious to health or property.

The Board may authorise any officer to enter and inspect premises on reasonable presumption of the existence of a nuisance, after lapse of six hours from giving notice to occupier.

If nuisance is not abated proviso is made for punishment by Magistrate.

Drains.—The Board may require reconstruction of defective house drains and may inspect premises if they believe drains to be defective.

Overcrowding.—Less than 300 cubic feet of clear internal space for each adult shall be considered a nuisance, and proceedings for its abatement be taken.

In order the better to give effect to the Public Health Ordinance, the Governor (Sir G. William Des Vœux) reconstituted the Sanitary Board, materially increasing the unofficial element, and giving the ratepayers the privilege of electing two gentlemen as their own immediate representatives. Unofficial members appointed and elected on the 11th June, 1888, were as follows:—

Messrs. Wong Shing	} Appointed.
James Cantlie	
N. J. Ede	
Ho Kai	} Elected.
J. J. Francis	
J. D. Humphreys	

On the reconstruction of the Board it was provided that its meetings should be held in public, and the proceedings have accordingly been regularly reported in the Press.

From what is above stated it will be apparent that the newly formed Sanitary Board was armed with very ample powers, and that it entered upon its period of office with the full knowledge of the urgent importance of effectively scavenging the city. Although this was the case it would seem that this department of the Board's work was never performed in the thorough manner which was absolutely necessary, for the state of Taipingshan at the outbreak of the plague, so far as the accumulation of garbage and filth is concerned, could not have marked an improvement on the condition described by Mr. Chadwick in 1881.

The much needed by-laws for regulating the sanitary condition of common lodging houses were not made by the Board until 1891, and when these were approved by the Legislative Council in May of that year, the date of their coming into operation was, at the instance of the Board, deferred to the following year. It is alleged that representations on behalf of the Chinese in opposition to the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance against overcrowding and the possible interference with trade which would be caused by more active interference on their part, mainly influenced both the Board and the Government in this postponement of the operation of

the by-laws in question. Nor, on the expiration of the stipulated period of suspension, was the Board found less averse to the assumption of the responsibility of the delaying the enforcement of its own regulations against overcrowding, for at its request the date of the operation of these by-laws was again deferred by the Legislative Council—with what result this policy has been attended your Excellency is, unhappily, only too well acquainted. The responsibility for this failure to carry out one of the most essential requirements of the Public Health Ordinance seems to be divided between the Sanitary Board and the Government.

The legislative steps would seem to have been wisely taken, but they were allowed to fall into abeyance by a lack of prompt administrative and subordinate action.

It has generally been understood, and there is good reason for believing the statement, that the Sanitary Board has been well served by its inspectors, who have not failed to report upon the insanitary condition of the city, and therefore the Committee do not wish it to be supposed that they imply any censure of these inspectors. Indeed, it has been frequently stated—and the Committee pray your Excellency to investigate the statement—that the Sanitary Board had numerous reports and complaints in reference to sanitary matters. In the interests of the public this allegation should, in the opinion of the Chamber, be thoroughly sifted, and information be afforded to the public as to what action was taken by the Board in each case brought to its notice.

With regard to the drainage of the city, there is a wide-spread belief—but the Chamber has no means of verifying it—that the scheme, as drawn up by Mr. Osbert Chadwick, endorsed by Mr. J. M. Price, the late Surveyor-General, and approved by the Government, has not been carried out on the original lines, and that the separate system has been more generally applied than was intended; upon this point it is desirable that the public should be thoroughly enlightened. In December, 1890, the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, in a memorandum regarding the estimates for Public Works Extraordinary for 1891, sounded a note of warning on this subject to the following effect:—

"We do not feel satisfied that the enormous expenditure of \$282,500, already voted, on the sewerage of Victoria was a desirable one to incur, but as the work has been commenced and has therefore to be gone on with, we do not disapprove of the decision of Government to sanction and carry out Mr. Osbert Chadwick's proposals and plans, but we are not of opinion that it would have been better when such decision was approved of by the Council that it should have been arrived at in such a manner as would have guarded against any possibility of any changes in and departures from these plans by a change of officers."

In the opinion of the Committee, before adopting the separate system of drainage for the Chinese town, the views of experienced resident engineers, familiar with the habits of the Chinese, ought to have been ascertained. It is a very debatable question whether the system can be satisfactorily availed of for the densely packed districts of the native town, and however excellent it may be in a European, it is, at least, open to serious doubt whether it is safely applicable to a Chinese city.

Having regard to the foregoing, the Committee of this Chamber are unhesitatingly of opinion that, whilst it is almost certain the plague was introduced from the neighbouring province, it was only in consequence of the insanitary condition of this city that it was able to germinate and to become an unparalleled disaster, and that, therefore, it was due to preventable causes. The neglect of all effective sanitary measures throughout a period of years, and in the face of continuous and repeated protest, makes it abundantly manifest that there has been no effective administrative sanitary system in this colony.

The Committee's excuse for addressing your Excellency at such length is the vast importance of the subject.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

J. J. KESWICK, Chairman.

To H. E. Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.,

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 24th October, 1894.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and in reply to inform you that the matter of the constitution of the Sanitary Board is under the consideration of the Government.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable J. J. Keswick,
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce,
&c., &c., &c.

Hongkong, 12th November, 1894.

My dear Sir,—With reference to what passed at a recent meeting of unofficial members when the composition of the Sanitary Board was discussed and a difference of opinion arose as to the question of responsibility in the event of the Government appointing a Medical Authority and Sanitary Engineer, I am decidedly of opinion that such appointment would infallibly place with the Government the responsibility for the sanitation of the colony.

I consider that the public interests would be efficiently served if the Government were to reconstitute the Sanitary Board on the above lines, that is to say, by the nomination of a Medical Authority as President, a permanent Sanitary Specialist and Engineer, and the Captain Superintendent of Police. With these officials should be associated, as at present, two members selected by the community.

As matters now are there is practically no properly constituted Sanitary Authority, and from its very nature it is impossible that the Board, as now existing, can adequately fulfil those functions expected of it, or that it can be held fully responsible for any inefficiency in the sanitation of the colony.

The state of sanitary matters exposed last summer on the outbreak of the plague sufficiently bears out these views, which I believe I am right in asserting are shared by the public at large.—Believe me to be, yours truly,
J. J. KESWICK.

Honourable C. P. Chater,
Senior Unofficial Member,
Legislative Council.

MINUTE BY THE HONOURABLE A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. Keswick in the above letter expresses very clearly my own personal views on this matter. I would like, however, to add that I consider the Government in having the appointment of a special medical authority as President would accept all responsibility, through their own officer, for the health of the colony. The main fault to be found with the present Board is the fact that the responsibility for their actions cannot be pinned down to the Government or any one in particular.

A. MCCONACHIE.

MINUTE BY THE HONOURABLE C. P. CHATER.

My ideas on this subject are identical with those expressed in Mr. Keswick's letter, for I consider that a Board, composed as he suggests, would throw upon the Government the responsibility for the health of the colony.

C. P. CHATER.

Hongkong, 5th November, 1894.

Dear Sir,—Referring to the decision come to by the unofficial members upon the question of the re-organisation of the Sanitary Board submitted to their consideration by the Government, and the understanding arrived at between us that the minority—(Dr. Ho Kai and myself)—should furnish you with our reasons in writing for dissenting from our colleagues in their recommendation to His Excellency the Governor, I will now redeem the pledge.

The recommendation was, in brief, that the newly constituted Sanitary Board should consist of three officials and two unofficials, elected by the taxpayers, to be directly responsible to the Government.

To this I objected, urging that the Board should consist of three officials only, directly responsible to the Government for the sanitation of the city, and that the introduction of the elective element would weaken the efficiency of the Board without securing any corresponding advantage.

We have already had experience in the working of the existing Board that the presence of unofficial members, outvoted by officials, and powerless for executive purposes, has merely resulted in an overflow of debate and waste of valuable time.

But I object to the proposal for unofficial elected members chiefly because, while they would in all cases be outvoted and powerless, their presence at the Board, and the sanction given by their votes when in accord with their colleagues, would in some degree lessen the responsibility of the officials, who might even seek to shelter themselves behind the unofficial vote when some grave blunder had perhaps been perpetrated.—I am, dear sir, yours very truly,
E. R. BELILIOS.

Honourable C. P. Chater, &c., &c., &c.

MEMORANDUM ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

I am of opinion that the Sanitary Board hardly requires reconstitution or reconstruction. What it urgently requires are:—

- (a). Enlarged power.
- (b). Increased staff.

The Sanitary Board has done splendid work in the past, notwithstanding the unfavourable opinions of a few leading residents, and it would have done much better had its power been enlarged and staff increased.

The Board should have power over all public as well as private drains, and it should have under its control the water supply of the colony. Its legal power should be enlarged in several respects, especially as regards the inspection of houses and house-drains, and the prompt closing of houses unfit for human habitation with or without compensation. It should have an adequate staff consisting at least of the following officers and persons:—

- 1.—A Sanitary Superintendent and Secretary.
- 2.—A Medical Officer.
- 3.—A Sanitary Engineer.
- 4.—A Chief Inspector of Nuisance or Deputy Superintendent.
- 5.—Twelve Inspectors of Nuisance.
- 6.—A sufficient number of office clerks, overseers, coolies, &c.

With such increased power and staff as suggested, the present Sanitary Board would become a much more useful and effective institution, and would be found equal to the discharge of the various important duties entrusted to it by the Government, and it would meet with public approval and support.

On the other hand, if the Government is determined to reconstruct the Board, I am of opinion that the next best thing to be done is to abolish the Sanitary Board altogether, and create a new Government department, and call it the Sanitary department, where all the officers, high and low, shall be appointed by the Government, entirely subject to Government control, and held directly responsible to the Government. Such a department would have my qualified approval and, I believe, that of the public also. In troublous time the Government, through this department, would have complete charge of, and control over, the sanitation of the colony, and would have no excuse for neglect of duty.

But I am strongly against the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board on the line as proposed, viz., three Government officials and two unofficials; the former to consist of a Medical Officer who is to be President, a Sanitary Engineer, and the Superintendent of Police, or some other Government officer who may be selected by the Government; the latter, I understand, will be appointed by the ratepayers as at present. The preponderance of the official element at once indicates the position of the two unofficial members, who can have nothing but a consultative voice in the Board. Will this give public satisfaction? I think not. Will it even give satisfaction to the two elected gentlemen themselves? I am certain that it will not. In common with others, I am a strong advocate of the principle—"equal power, equal responsibility;" but deprecate half measures and divided responsibility.

In the proposed new Board neither the President nor any member could be held to be entirely responsible to the Government, because his actions will have to

be controlled and regulated by the decisions of his colleagues. But if the President be invested with the power of commanding the official votes whenever it suits his purpose or views, then the presence of the unofficials on the Board, nay, even of the other two officials as well, would be quite unnecessary.

The present Board has a majority of unofficial members, two of whom are elected by public suffrage. If the presence of the unofficial members in the Board had not assisted in carrying out the duties of the Board in a satisfactory manner, why have any more unofficials in the new Board, but if their advice and assistance had been of use, why seek to cut their number down so as to weaken their influence? If the present Sanitary Board is a failure, let those who think and say so point out the true cause clearly and unmistakably, and it will be time then to consider the remedy; but it seems absurd to alter the constitution of the Board on speculation, simply because the Board, as considered by a few to have failed in the discharge of its duties on some particular exceptional occasions. The proposed new Board seems to me nothing more than the Sanitary Board with its unofficial members greatly reduced in number and with an enormously increased staff under it. Such will never command my support.

HO KAI.

3rd November, 1894.

EXTRACT FROM THE RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

217.—With respect to the Sanitary Department, the total cost of which is set down at \$62,557, composed of:—

Personal emoluments \$24,272
Other charges 38,285

we beg to state that we are unable to recommend any decrease in the cost thereof, but would call the attention of the Government to this important department with a view to the early consideration of the question whether the whole sanitary system of the colony should not be placed on a different basis and all the sanitary arrangements and powers placed in the hands of one thoroughly competent officer, who should be personally responsible to Government for all matters connected with the health of the colony and for the carrying out of all sanitary laws and regulations.

If the officer selected for this important office be an engineer, he should have under him a duly qualified health officer, but if the head should be a medical man, then he should be assisted by a sanitary engineer to carry out the necessary work and, in either case, with a staff sufficient to see that the sanitary regulations and laws are duly observed and carried out. It might be made part of the duties of this officer to furnish periodical reports to the Government, which might be published for general information.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the Committee held at the Chamber's rooms on 28th February last. Present—Messrs. A. McConachie (Vice-Chairman), N. J. Ede, R. M. Gray, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox, Secretary.

The minutes of the last monthly and special meetings were confirmed.

New Members.—The China Traders' Insurance Co., the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., and the China Fire Insurance Co. were unanimously elected members.

The Chinkiang Chamber of Commerce.—Letter dated 15th February from the Secretary announcing the establishment of a Chamber of Commerce at Chinkiang read. The Secretary had replied congratulating the Committee and expressing readiness to co-operate.

Change in time of departure of Homeward French Mails.—Letter from the Colonial Secretary dated 3rd February transmitting a letter from the Messageries Maritimes announcing that their homeward fortnightly mails would in future leave Hongkong at 10 a.m. instead of

at noon on Wednesday, read. Unanimously resolved that the proposed change would entail grave inconvenience upon the commercial community, and to address the Agent of the Messageries Maritimes expressing the sincere hope that the Co.'s directors would favourably reconsider their decision, and revert to the old hour of departure.

International Telegraph Code Vocabulary.—Letter from Shanghai and Amoy Chambers of Commerce, acknowledging receipt from this Chamber of copy of a letter from the General Post Office in London in reply to a joint protest from the Chambers of Commerce in the Far East against the enforced use of the Vocabulary Code, read. Agreed to forward a copy of the protest to the local Press.

Trade within the British Empire.—Circular letter from the London Chamber of Commerce enclosing copy of a letter from the Colonial Minister to the Governors of the British Colonies, read. Agreed to reply that the Chamber would readily afford Government every information at its disposal.

Exhibition of Empire of India.—Letter from the Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, &c., in connection with the proposed continuation of this Exhibition and its extension to the Eastern Crown Colonies, read. Unanimously agreed that as letter was not received until 14th February, and that as exhibits would not be received in London after 20th April next, time did not now permit of contributions being sent from this colony.

The New Mail Contract.—Letter from Shanghai Chamber, in reply to one from this Chamber, enclosing copy of despatch from the General Post Office in London with reference to the new mail contract, protesting against the proposed change in terminal point, read. In pursuance of having previously agreed to do so, this Chamber addressed the Colonial Government on 15th February expressing the opinion that stoppages of the homeward mail steamers be shortened to 24 hours, and that no change be made in the terminal point.

Telegraph Rates to the East.—Read letter from London Chamber, referring to previous circular letter, asking for co-operation of this Chamber to obtain reduction in telegraph rates, and now expressing the opinion that no practical good is likely to result from appeal to either Government or Telegraph Cos.; and suggesting that Colonial Government might be asked to give guarantee to Telegraph Cos. against any loss sustained in the event of their reducing rates. Resolved against asking for such guarantee, and to postpone consideration of the steps to be taken to attain the reduction of rates; also that Chamber address the local General Manager of the Telegraph Cos. urging the reduction of local rates.

Chinese Official Obstruction to Sale of Foreign Goods at Wuchowfu on the West River.—Read letter from the Colonial Secretary, acknowledging receipt of one from this Chamber, stating that His Excellency the Governor had addressed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking in connection with the obstruction of the Chinese officials to the sale of Mr. John Andrew's foreign goods at Wuchowfu, and from Mr. John Andrew enclosing copy Proclamation by the Prefect at Wuchow which nominally sanctions trade under transit passes, but in reality renders it impossible. Resolved unanimously to telegraph to Lord Salisbury, Her Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, submitting that this case merits vigorous action.

Quarantine at Singapore.—Resolved to address the Colonial Government that they ask the Straits Government by telegram that vessels from Hongkong not carrying Chinese passengers be exempted from quarantine at Singapore.

Synopsis of Minutes of monthly Meetings of Committee.—Resolved unanimously that a brief synopsis of the minutes of monthly meetings be in future supplied to the local press.

At a monthly meeting of the Committee held at the Chamber's rooms on 21st March. Present—Messrs. A. McConachie (Vice-Chairman), N. J. Ede, R. M. Gray, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Member.—The Hongkong and Kow-

loon Wharf and Godown Co. was elected a member.

Chinese Official Obstruction to Transit Trade at Wuchow.—Read letter from H.M.'s Acting Consul at Canton dated 5th March, stating that in reply to remonstrance addressed to the Viceroy on the Prefect's proclamation H.E. defended action of that official, and the matter had been further referred to Peking. Also one from Mr. Andrew dated 11th March giving similar information. Also a despatch from H.B.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires, acknowledging Chamber's letter of the 22nd January, and stating that the question was receiving the closest attention. Resolved unanimously that the correspondence be published.

Quarantine at Singapore.—The letter to Government and the reply of the Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of telegram from Strait Government read. (Already published).

Telegraph Rates to the East.—Letter addressed to the Joint Telegraph Cos. on the 6th March expressing opinion of Chamber that local rates were too high. Reply of Acting Manager, dated 9th March, read. Resolved that correspondence be published.

The Shanghai Chamber and Mr. A. G. Wood.—Read letter from Shanghai Chamber notifying that Mr. A. G. Wood had been nominated to represent them at the forthcoming Congress of Chambers. Reply had been sent that this Chamber had also requested Mr. Wood to act as their delegate. The Committee saw no reason why Mr. Wood should not represent both Chambers.

(Correspondence)

PROPOSED ENFORCED USE OF OFFICIAL TELEGRAPH CODE VOCABULARY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 23rd September, 1895.

To the International Telegraph Bureau, Berne.

The Committee of the above Chamber beg to ask the attention of the International Telegraph Bureau to the enclosed document signed by this and various Chambers expressing their objections to the proposed enforced use of the Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary for use in extra-European messages with the request that the same may be forwarded to the International Telegraph Convention to be held at Buda-Pesth for its favourable consideration when the question is brought forward next year for discussion.

To the International Telegraph Bureau, Berne.

Learning that the proposed compulsory use of the Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary will become the subject of discussion, and its adoption or rejection for use in extra-European messages finally settled, at the next meeting of the International Telegraph Convention to be held at Buda-Pesth in 1896, the undersigned, being desirous of protesting against what they consider an unnecessary innovation, beg to bring the matter to the notice of the International Telegraph Bureau with the request that the objections to the proposal, hereafter stated, may be placed before the International Telegraph Convention for consideration previous to the next assembly at Buda-Pesth.

The compulsory adoption of the official vocabulary, if enforced, will necessitate the abandonment of all private codes now in use, and as most of these have been compiled at great trouble and expense, to render them practically useless would entail serious loss and inconvenience on the bulk of the mercantile and banking communities in the East. Without, so far as the signatories are aware, offering or even suggesting any compensating advantages, such as either reduced cost or greater safety in the transmission of messages.

These codes have in most instances been the outcome of long continued endeavours to simplify the use of telegraphy to mercantile requirements, have been gradually elaborated and increased to meet the business exigencies of each particular firm as these arose, and to adapt the private codes to the new vocabulary would be a task not easy of accomplishment. As some of the codes now in use contain over 300,000 words the suggested number of 256,700 for the new vocabulary would be insufficient for the reconstruction of each code.

It has not been contended that the use of private codes has given rise to difficulties, or in

any way retarded the business of the Telegraph Companies, therefore the suppression of these codes can scarcely have been suggested on public grounds.

In raising objections to the suggested alterations the undersigned believe they are only following a course similar to that adopted by many European Chambers of Commerce.

The signatories venture to hope that the Convention to meet at Buda-Pesth will give the question their fullest and most serious consideration.

It has not been explicitly shown that the compulsory use of the Official Telegraph Code Vocabulary will facilitate the transmission of messages, but on the other hand there is no doubt that it will cause very serious loss and inconvenience to all who have private codes.

Signed by

Hongkong, Canton, Shanghai, Hankow, Foo-chow, Hiogo and Osaka, Yokohama, Amoy, and Tientsin Chambers of Commerce.

TRANSIT PASSES: OBSTRUCTION TO SALE OF GOODS AT WUCHOW.

Wuchow-fu, 18th February, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I have been informed by H.M.'s Acting Consul at Canton that your Chamber has interested itself in regard to my case against the Chinese officials here and the Viceroy of Canton for preventing the free sale of piece-goods and cotton yarn at this port. For the further information of your members I beg to enclose copy of a proclamation on the subject which was issued by the Prefect here yesterday, although dated the previous day. You will doubtless be able to get a better translation of it than I can with the limited means at my disposal. Among other things, it says that Chinese merchants are allowed to trade with me, but as soon as the cargo passes into native hands it will be taxed with *lekin* and *duty again*. This, of course, places me in a worse position than I was in before, as what merchant would dare to buy from me on these terms? The amount of what they would have to pay is not stated, and the wording, I understand, is so arranged that merchants can be punished in other ways by having cargo sold by me in their possession. All the merchants look at it in this light and decline to buy my cargo on any consideration.

I have claimed all along that, having paid for and received a Transit Pass to bring my goods to Wuchow, I am entitled to get them landed free of all taxes and placed in exactly the same position as similar goods coming up *via* the barriers and paying the local taxes. Any inland duty after landing, which applies to the latter, I think should also be paid by the former, but nothing differential.

I trust the Chamber will do everything in their power to enforce Treaty rights in this case, as, if not, there will never again be such strong proof obtainable, and the Transit Pass question, which is vital to British trade, is doomed for ever.

I still remain here waiting instructions from H.M.'s Consul at Canton.—I am, &c.,

JOHN ANDREW.

To the Secretary of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 2nd March, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter received from Mr. John Andrew, dated Wuchow-fu 18th February, together with copy of translation of a proclamation issued by the Prefect of Wuchow on the 17th idem.

In view of the official obstruction to the sale of Mr. Andrew's cargo being thus continued, my Committee on Saturday despatched to the noble lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs the following telegram:—

"Marquess Salisbury, London. Sale goods
"British merchant Andrew obstructed
"Wuchow-fu, West River. Chamber
"Commerce earnestly submits case merits
"vigorous action. Letter follows. Mc-
"Conachie, Chairman."

I have, &c.,

F. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1896.

Sir,—Referring again to the case of Mr. John Andrew at Wuchow-fu, I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter received from him, dated the 18th ult., from which it will be seen that the Wuchow authorities while issuing a proclamation (translation of which is also enclosed) nominally authorising native merchants to trade freely with him, completely nullify that permission by stating that *lekin* and Customs dues will be enforced on the goods reaching native hands.

In consequence of this communication, my Committee on Saturday despatched the following telegram to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

(See above letter.)

I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

His Excellency W. N. Beauchlerk,
H.B.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires, Peking.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th February and of the Prefect's proclamation, which has been translated for this Chamber.

My Committee, in consequence of the information contained in your letter, telegraphed on the 29th February as follows to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

(See above letter.)

Trusting that you will soon be relieved from your present irksome position,—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

John Andrew, Esq.,
Wuchow.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1896.

Dear Sir,—In consequence of a letter received from Mr. John Andrew under date 18th ult. enclosing copy of a Proclamation issued by the Prefect the previous day, so worded as to effectually nullify the ostensible concession made, my Committee on Saturday despatched the following telegram to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

(See above letter.)

I have notified Mr. Andrew of the action taken, and beg you will kindly have the letter, which I take the liberty to enclose, kindly forwarded to him.—I am, &c.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

E. H. Fraser Esq.,
H. B. M.'s Acting Consul, Canton.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 3rd March, 1896.

My Lord Marquess.—I had the honour, on behalf of this Chamber, to despatch to your Lordship on the 29th ultimo the following telegram:—

"Marquess Salisbury, London. Sale goods
"British merchant Andrew obstructed
"Wuchow-fu, West River. Chamber
"Commerce earnestly submits case merits
"vigorous action. Letter follows. Mc-
"Conachie, Chairman."

Your Lordship will doubtless ere this be in receipt of the particulars of this case from H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires at Peking and it may now suffice to briefly recapitulate the facts.

About two months ago Mr. John Andrew, a British merchant, left Canton in a native boat full of piece-goods, for which he had taken out a transit pass, and proceeded up the West River to Wuchow-fu. On arrival there he exhibited his pass to the local authorities, and then commenced business, very quickly disposing of a portion of his cargo to native traders. The next day, however, these buyers informed Mr. Andrew that they dare not take delivery of the goods. They had been intimidated, and said they could not complete their purchases unless a proclamation were issued by the authorities. Representations to the Acting British Consul at Canton followed, who in turn laid the case before the Viceroy. That official flatly denied the intimidation, but would do nothing to assist the merchant. The case was then carried to Peking, where presumably Mr.

Beauchlerk's efforts were successful in obtaining some action, for on the 17th ultimo the Prefect of Wuchow issued a proclamation nominally sanctioning trade with Mr. Andrew, but the document was so worded (translation of same enclosed, together with copy of Mr. Andrew's covering letter of 18th ult.) that not one of the native traders would venture to take a single package.

As this case is one in which there is clear and actual proof of the manner in which for many years past the officials of the Two Kwang have effectually prevented foreign merchants availing themselves of the privileges granted by Art. XXVIII. of the Treaty of Tientsin, my Committee desire me to respectfully solicit your Lordship's particular attention to the facts, and to express a hope that it may influence negotiations for the opening up of the West River to foreign trade and steamer navigation.—I have, &c.,

A. McCONACHIE, Chairman.
The Most Noble The Marquess of Salisbury,
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 3rd March, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to the noble lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in continuation of the telegram despatched on the 29th ult. in reference to the case of Mr. John Andrew at Wuchow.—I have, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary.

Telegram.

"From H. M. Minister, Peking.

"To Chamber of Commerce.

"Am representing matter to Chinese Govern-
ment.

"21st January, 1896."

(Translation.)

Proclamation by Chang, Prefect of Wuchow-fu.

The British merchant Andrew has lately imported some goods into Wuchow. I [the Prefect] have already examined the same and allowed them to pass, leaving him [the said merchant] to bargain and trade with our merchants and people as they please. The said foreign merchant, in consequence of some steamers [steam-launches] coming from the eastern provinces [Tung] has petitioned for a Proclamation to stop the same, saying that they are meant to frighten and put a stop to [trade]. But the real facts are that these steamers have already returned to the east, and did not come because of the European merchant selling goods here. I have now received a telegram from the Governor-General, directing me to devise ways and means to have this matter properly settled. I have therefore deemed it a fitting matter to issue this Proclamation. This is therefore to inform you [Chinese merchants and people of all classes] that if you are desirous of buying European goods you can deal with European merchants as you think fit. With regard to the paragraph in the treaty about China being at liberty to take steps herself to prevent frauds and the like language they have nothing to do with European merchants at all. The transportation of goods by European merchants is allowed by treaty, and you people need not therefore suspect that they are offending against the law. After the goods have been transferred to the Chinese merchants then *lekin* taxes and Customs dues will be charged according to regulations. Do not disobey this. A special Proclamation.

H. B. M. Consulate,
Canton, 4th March, 1896.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant acquainting me with the telegram which your Chamber has sent to the Marquess of Salisbury.

The Prefect's proclamation, translation of which is enclosed, was telegraphed in Chinese to H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires on the 23rd February, and a remonstrance was addressed to the Viceroy the following day.

The Viceroy, in a despatch received yesterday, defends the proclamation, which he asserts to be in accordance with the Tsungli Yamén's instructions. His Excellency further declares that, once transit pass goods have reached the destination mentioned in the pass and been sold to Chinese, foreigners cannot interfere, no matter what dues are levied on them.

This declaration has been telegraphed to Peking and reports will be forwarded to the Foreign Office, H.M.'s Legation, and the Hongkong Government.

Your letter to Mr. Andrew has been posted to that gentleman, who reports, under date February 29th, that, though the Wuchow dealers are not friendly, they dare not even warehouse his goods.—I am, &c.,

E. H. FRASER,

Acting Consul.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hong-
kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Wuchowfu, 11th March, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of 2nd instant and beg to return my best thanks to your Committee for the prompt and powerful telegram sent by your chairman to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in reference to the detention of myself and sale of my goods here.

I now beg to inform your Committee that I have received a letter from Acting Consul Fraser dated Canton, 4th instant, in which he says:—

"To my remonstrance against the wording of the Prefect's proclamation the Viceroy replied yesterday defending the proclamation as in accordance with the instructions of the Tsungli Yamén, and asserting that once transit pass goods have reached the destination mentioned in the pass and been sold to Chinese the foreign merchant cannot interfere, no matter what dues are levied on them."

"I telegraphed His Excellency's statements to Peking last night and hope that the Viceroy, to whom I am pointing out the illegality of any differential levy on transit pass goods, will be instructed to have a satisfactory proclamation issued without further delay."

The above goes clearly to prove that the Prefect has been acting all along under the Viceroy's instructions, and my case is complete as far as documentary evidence is concerned. The transit pass question is now brought to a distinct head and the matter rests entirely with Her Majesty's Minister at Peking whether he will or not insist upon carrying out the treaty.

I trust your Committee will continue to give this matter their valuable support—a matter of vital importance to British commerce being at stake.—I am, &c.,

JOHN ANDREW.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber
of Commerce, Hongkong.

Peking, 16th February, 1896.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd January respecting the interference of the Chinese authorities with the sale of British goods conveyed to Wuchow-fu under transit pass.

The question has formed the subject of correspondence and frequent discussion between myself and the Tsungli Yamén, and on the 12th instant I received a written assurance that the Viceroy at Canton would be instructed to have a proclamation issued at Wuchow-fu, clearly explaining to the people that they are at perfect liberty to purchase transit pass goods.

I have telegraphed this information to Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, and await his report of the result before taking further action in the matter.

As to the opening of the West River, to which you allude in the concluding paragraph of your letter, I beg to assure you that the question continues to receive the closest attention.—I am, &c.,

W. BEAUCLERK.

A. McConachie, Esq., Hongkong.

TELEGRAPH RATES TO THE EAST.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 6th March, 1896.

Dear Sir,—The question of the rates charged for telegraphing between this port and Japan,

the Straits Settlements, and India has for some time occupied the attention of this Chamber. The rates seem to my Committee excessive and to constitute a serious burden on trade, tending to restrict its natural expansion in some directions.

The rate to Nagasaki from hence is \$1.26, to other ports of Japan \$1.40, and to Penang \$1.80 per word as compared with \$2.00 per word to European countries. When it is considered that the messages to the first named places pass only over the Companies' cables (with the exception of some small payment to Japanese land lines in the case of that country), while those to Europe have to pass over other cables to which out-payments to other administrations have to be paid, the difference between the rates becomes strikingly apparent.

A further comparison may be noted in the case of Shanghai, the rate to which port is only 20 cents per word. The tariff is the result of the competition between the Companies' cables and Chinese land lines. Yet the distance to Nagasaki, to which \$1.26 per word is charged, is not more than 300 miles greater than that to Shanghai.

My Committee are of opinion that these rates might be materially modified without impairing the earning power of your Companies, or in any way pressing unduly upon them. A reduction in rates would probably be attended by such an increase in business as would prevent any falling off in receipts.

I am also instructed to call attention to the rates to Europe, which my Committee think are still too high, notwithstanding the reduction recently made.

Trusting that these representations will meet with favourable consideration from your Companies.—I am, &c.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To L. Webster, Esq.,
Acting Superintendent
Eastern Extension, Australasia and China
Telegraph, Co. Ltd.
Great Northern Telegraph Co.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China
Telegraph Company, Ltd.
The Great Northern Telegraph
Company of Copenhagen.

Hongkong Station, 9th March, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant regarding the telegraphic rates charged by the above Companies, and to state that the matter will have due consideration.—I am, &c.,

L. WEBSTER,
Acting Manager in China.
The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

THE JUBILEE OF ZETLAND LODGE.

DINNER AND EXTRAORDINARY LODGE OF
EMERGENCY.

SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

A few weeks ago the Jubilee of the introduction of Freemasonry into Hongkong was celebrated by a very successful Ball, given by the Masonic bodies in general. It was felt by the members of Zetland Lodge, however, that a Lodge celebration was also desirable and this took the shape of a dinner and special lodge of emergency, followed by a smoking concert, held on Saturday evening. The Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Hon. C. P. Chater, as one of the oldest members of the Lodge and also by reason of his holding the highest office in the district, was invited to preside on the occasion and kindly consented to do so, but, to the great disappointment of the brethren, he was unable to fulfil his promise owing to illness. In his absence the duty was confided to Wor. Bro. W. M. B. Arthur, who is also one of the oldest Past Masters. His Excellency the Governor accepted the Lodge's invitation to be present on the occasion and at dinner and in the Lodge room occupied the place of honour on the right of the presiding Master. There were also a number of guests from the sister Lodges. At dinner the Senior Warden's chair was filled by Wor. Bro. Mallory, P.M., and the Junior

Warden's by Wor. Bro. Death, P.M., Wor. Bro. Macdonald, the Master for the present year, occupying the vice-chair of the centre table facing the presiding Master.

Between the conclusion of dinner and the opening of the Lodge a short toast list was gone through. "The Queen and the Craft" and "H.R.H. The Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England" were proposed from the chair and received with the loyalty customary amongst Masons.

Bro. J. DYER BALL proposed "The District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China" and in doing so alluded to the disappointment caused by the absence of Right Wor. Bro. Chater and to the harmony which always characterised the working of the District.

Wor. Bro. COOKE, D. Senior Grand Warden, in responding to the toast said—Wor. Master and brethren, on behalf of the District Grand Lodge I thank you for the kind manner in which the District Grand Lodge has been proposed and received. We are all very grieved that the District Grand Master could not be here to take part in the ceremony, from which he has been prevented by an illness in which I can deeply and truly sympathize with him, having suffered from the same complaint myself, and I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery to health so that he may again take up the duties of his responsible office as District Grand Master. Worshipful Master and brethren, I can only again thank you for the cordial manner in which you have proposed and received the toast of District Grand Lodge.

H.E. the GOVERNOR, who was received with loud applause, said—Worshipful Master and brethren, I think it was the great poet Dryden who said that "An honour is an empty bubble." I should be sorry to say I agreed with that immortal Bard, for a very great and I may say unparalleled honour has been conferred upon me this evening, an honour quite unexpected and unsought. I feel very acutely that there are many gentlemen round this table who are more competent to do justice to the duty involved in that honour. ("No; no.") You are aware that I am not a member of Zetland Lodge. I am a member of the Lodge of Harmony in England and a staunch Mason, but unfortunately I have not had time to take an active part in the working, but when I retire from my Government I hope to reach the thirty-third degree. (Applause.) I have been asked to propose the toast of the evening, and the Right Wor. District Grand Master, whose absence we all so deeply deplore, has given me some notes, which I am afraid may impinge upon what the Master is going to say upstairs, but which will give very lucidly the subject of the toast. We are met to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the grant of the warrant of Zetland Lodge. (Applause.) This is our Jubilee. (Renewed applause.) This used to be the second senior lodge in China, but when the District was divided into two parts in 1876 it became the senior lodge of Hongkong and South China. Like most useful institutions, it had a very small beginning. In December, 1845, a few years after the cession of this island to England, nine brethren met in conclave and the result of their discussion was a petition to the Grand Lodge of England, the response to which was the issue of a warrant which bears date 21st March, 1846. (Applause.) That was at a time when, comparatively speaking, Hongkong was only partly populated, when it was little more than a barren rock, and when an ascent to the Peak was regarded as equivalent to scaling Monte Rosa, or some great Alpine mountain. (Applause.) The first meeting was held on the 26th June, 1846, and, if I may be allowed to paraphrase Wordsworth, the Lodge began its youth in gladness but was very soon met by despondency and sadness. It was a question whether Zetland Lodge would survive, but where the seeds of Freemasonry are sown there they must flourish and bear fruit, some fifty-fold and some a hundred-fold. (Applause.) The men of the hour were at hand. Brothers Rawson and Mercer rallied the brethren of Zetland and by their pluck and encouragement an era of prosperity set in which I believe has continued ever since. (Applause.) In 1853 Zetland Lodge determined to have premises of its own and the foundation stone

of the building was laid with considerable ceremony, possibly within the recollection of some here this evening, and as Governor of the colony I am glad to think the site is held directly from the Government at the enormous expense of one dollar per annum! (Laughter and applause.) The first building having become too small, in 1865 this present building was opened, and the debentures which were issued for the erection of the edifice have, I am glad to hear, been all redeemed. (Applause.) I am authorised by the Right Wor. the District Grand Master to say, and I say it with great satisfaction, that the Lodge has been most successful, that it is most ably officered, and that it has for many years worked most harmoniously. (Applause.) The number of brethren who have passed through it is 1,350 and the present number upon the books is 117. (Applause.) So much, brethren, for the past; what shall we say of the present and the future? It is said an old Roman Emperor many hundred years ago on his death bed had asked to be informed of the progress of the battle; he was lying in extremis when the Captain of the Watch came in and asked what was the watchword of the night, and he replied *Laboremus*. So must it be with us. We labour and others enter upon the fruits of our labour. We dig the foundations, others build them, and others again raise the superstructure, but after many years the faithful workmen, members of our fraternity, their little spell of toil concluded, sink perhaps into oblivion. Still the work remains. So is it in Freemasonry. Higher and greater rises its fabric, and broader and wider extend her civilizing and humanising influences. (Applause.) So may it be, brethren, with Zetland Lodge. (Applause.) May she increase in numbers and wealth, may she flourish until the crack of doom, may the great Architect of the Universe guard and keep her, and may she ever, with that charity for which she is so much distinguished, minister to the sufferings of distressed Freemasons. (Applause.) I have the greatest pleasure, brethren, in proposing the toast of "Prosperity to Zetland Lodge"

The toast was most enthusiastically received.

Wor. Brother MACDONALD responded; He said—Brother Sir William Robinson and brethren, being Master of this old Lodge this year it falls to my lot to respond to this toast, though perhaps less qualified to do so in a becoming manner than most of the brethren present to-night, and I trust you will forgive me if I do so as briefly as possible. In the name of Zetland Lodge I thank your Excellency for the very kind and graceful terms in which you have proposed this toast, and you, brethren, for the very cordial way you have received it. It may have been expected that I should here give some particulars of the past doings of the Lodge, but you will have an opportunity of hearing a very full history of the Lodge when we assemble upstairs, so that I need not make any such references here. Zetland Lodge to-day completes fifty years of work and we as members are very proud of the antiquity and standing of our Lodge—(applause)—and will endeavour to maintain the high and responsible position held by the Zetland as mother Lodge of this colony. On behalf of those present, as well as those who are absent through illness, who, I am sure, will appreciate the kind words of your Excellency, I thank you. (Applause.)

Wor. Bro. G. C. Cox, P.M.—Wor. Master, your Excellency, and brethren, it is my pleasant duty to propose a toast which I am sure will meet with your enthusiastic acceptance. It is that of the sister Lodges and visitors. (Applause.) Between the sister Lodges and Zetland the greatest love and harmony have always existed and the members of Zetland Lodge will, I am sure, join me most cordially in wishing the sister Lodges all prosperity and happiness and that when they come to celebrate their respective jubilees they may do so with as much satisfaction to themselves and under as favourable auspices as we are now celebrating ours. (Applause.) To the visitors, who have given us the honour of their presence this evening Zetland Lodge extends a cordial and fraternal greeting. We are especially indebted to Brother Sir William Robinson for his attendance. (Applause.) We know that the calls on

His Excellency's time and attention are many and various, but we know also that he is always ready to respond to them. (Applause.) We are enjoined in one of our charges to abstain from every topic of political or religious discussion within the precincts of the Lodge and I am therefore precluded from referring to the political services His Excellency has rendered and is rendering to the colony—(applause)—but I am at liberty to speak of him in his social capacity, and I am sure you will all agree with me when I say that no Governor could identify himself more completely with the people of the colony over which he rules. (Applause.) He mixes with them as one of themselves, we meet him in all our sports and pastimes, and any movement having for its object intellectual improvement or social enjoyment at once secures his patronage and support. (Applause.) To-night he comes here as a brother amongst Masons—(applause)—and his presence here I am sure will increase, if that were possible, the respect we owe to the dignity of his high office. (Applause.) Brethren, I give you the toast of the sister Lodges and visiting brethren coupled with the name of Brother Sir William Robinson.

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

His EXCELLENCY—If the honour to which I alluded previously was unexpected this is still more so. I thank Wor. Bro. Cox for the very kind manner in which he has referred to me. I have had really a very happy time in Hongkong. I have just come away from the Athletic Sports, and I think the Wor. Brother has not overstated my love for sports and all forms of amusement. (Applause.) As for the sister Lodges, I am sure they will appreciate the manner in which the toast has been received and although I do not remember how many sister Lodges there are I will be happy to attend all of them if my neighbour Wor. Bro. Jordan will introduce me. (Applause.) But there is a limit to all things, even to a bottle of Louis Roderer—(laughter and applause)—and I believe the time for adjourning to the lodge room has arrived.

THE LODGE AND ITS HISTORY.

The brethren having assumed their regalia and assembled in the lodge room, the Lodge was opened in due form, Wor. Bro. W. M. B. Arthur occupying the Worshipful Master's chair and Wor. Bro. L. Mallory that of the Immediate Past Master. It had been intended that all the offices should be filled on this occasion by Past Masters in order of seniority, but the owing to the absence of Right Wor. Bro. Chater and others this had to be varied to some extent and the actual arrangement was as follows:—S.W., Wor. Bro. R. Cooke; J.W., Wor. Bro. A. D. Death; Chaplain, Bro. S. St. A. Baylee; D.G. Chaplain; Treasurer, Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; Secretary, Wor. Bro. G. C. Cox; S.D., Wor. Bro. G. C. Anderson; J.D., Wor. Bro. G. A. Caldwell; Organist, Bro. G. P. Lammert; D.C., Bro. J. Lockhead; I.G., Wor. Bro. D. Macdonald; Tyler, Bro. J. Maxwell.

A special prayer for the occasion having been offered by the chaplain.

Wor. Bro. W. M. B. ARTHUR said:—One of the anticipated pleasures of this evening was that this unique meeting would be presided over by the Senior Past Master in the Lodge, our esteemed Right Wor. District Grand Master. Under his genial and courteous presidency we had a guarantee that all things would work smoothly and in harmony. But it is always the unexpected that happens and much to our regret Right Wor. Brother Chater cannot take the place which would most appropriately have been filled by him. At an interview with him yesterday he desired me to express the deep regret which his enforced absence caused him and also gave me a brief outline of what he intended to do, and which we know he would have done so well. With every opportunity given me I could not aspire to vie with him in discharging the very high and honourable task expected of me this evening, and the very short notice I have had will I fear cause me to fail more signally in that respect. This day fifty years, brethren, was dated the warrant under which Zetland Lodge has been working up to the present, and as you know this is nearly coincident with the beginning of Masonry in this colony. A ball was given a little prematurely in consideration

of the conscientious scruples of some sections of the brethren and society generally, and a desire arose amongst the members of Zetland Lodge to especially commemorate the exact date of the Jubilee of our warrant, which we rightly consider the first established step towards the spread of Freemasonry with its enlightened tenets in this colony of Hongkong. The meeting of this evening was accordingly arranged.

After some further remarks Wor. Bro. ARTHUR proceeded to read the following historical sketch of the Lodge:—

The first entry in the minutes of Zetland Lodge is as follows:—

"Hongkong, Victoria,
"31st December, 1845.

"The petition to the Grand Lodge of England, signed by Bros. Goldsmith, Fagan, Carpenter, Bruce, Campbell, Lambert, Young, Pakensan, and Sansom, and recommended by the Master and Wardens of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 735, for a Warrant to hold a Lodge in Hongkong, to be entitled the Zetland Lodge, was forwarded to the Grand Secretary this day with the undermentioned fees, which were advanced by Bro. Goldsmith."

The charter of the Royal Sussex dates back to a period associated with the old factories at Canton, and that Lodge is the senior Lodge in China, Zetland ranking second. The Royal Sussex subsequently removed to Shanghai, and when in 1876 the district of China was divided into two, the District of North China and the District of Hongkong and South China, Zetland became the senior Lodge of the latter.

The Warrant of Zetland Lodge is dated the 21st March, 1846, that is, exactly fifty years ago to-day, and the first meeting was held on the 24th June, 1846, Bro. Goldsmith being appointed the Wor. Master. For some years the Lodge met in hired rooms, which were more or less inconvenient, and changes were frequent. In the course of a few years, too, difficulties and dissensions arose within the Lodge. We find, nevertheless, indications of a laudable zeal in the pursuit of Masonic knowledge and in the exercise of charity. Lodges of instruction were held and the subject of a Masonic library was mooted, while to meet the Lodge expenses funds appear to have been raised by loans from members, some of whom relinquished their claims to repayment and it was ordered that the money so relinquished should be formed into a charitable fund, from which the Wor. Master was authorised to grant relief to the extent of \$10 without reference to the Lodge.

The difficulties above alluded to, however, endangered the existence of the Lodge, and in 1848 there was a suggestion of closing it, because no duly qualified brother was willing to accept the chair. The matter was arranged at that time, but again in 1851 the same proposal was made and was seriously considered, a Lodge of Emergency being held to arrive at a decision upon it. It was resolved, however, to keep the Lodge open until the following St. John's day. Right Wor. Bro. Rawson, the Provincial Grand Master, who resided at Canton, was then elected a member and also to the chair. Here it will be interesting to quote from a speech made by the late Brother Kingsmill at a District Grand Lodge banquet held in 1875. Brother Kingsmill said:—"Finding himself once again amongst the brethren, his memory was carried back to the time when he first saw light within the foundation of the room in which they were assembled, though not in the very building, in the old Zetland Lodge, then ruled by Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Mercer. The nature of the toast and the circumstances of the gathering recalled to his mind the memories of Past Provincial Grand Masters and their services to Masonry. He particularly mentioned Right Wor. Brothers S. Rawson and W. T. Mercer. It was difficult to say to which of these brethren Masonry in China is most indebted. There was a time when Masonry in Hongkong was like the dying flame of a candle flickering in the socket, and there was no one to work the solitary Lodge which existed in the place. Bro. Rawson was then resident in Canton, and at cost of great trouble, inconvenience, and expense to himself, he took energetic measures to gather the almost dying embers together and fan the flame of Masonry, which has burned clearly in the colony

from that day to this. He accepted the Master-ship of the Lodge and during two years he came punctually from Canton for every meeting, not only on regular nights, but also for Lodges of Emergency, and when his term of office ended he had the satisfaction of seeing the Lodge firmly established, with a Master in charge well fitted to follow in his footsteps, and with a fair prospect of that success which has ever since attended the Zetland Lodge. Bro. Mercer, who succeeded Bro. Rawson in the District chair, ably carried on the work so well begun and his influence will be long felt by Masons in China. He brought to the discharge of his high position the union of many qualifications. A gentleman, both by descent and nature, a scholar, a man of the highest principles, and an ardent Mason, he contributed in no slight degree to the consummation of Brother Rawson's work, of which the assembly this evening is so sound a proof."

The encomiums passed by Bro. Kingsmill on the two lights in Masonry and Rulers in the Craft to whom he referred were well deserved. With Right Wor. Bro. Rawson's assumption of office an era of prosperity dawned for the Lodge and to the foundation then laid we are indebted for much of our present well-being. Right Wor. Bro. Rawson, as stated in the above extract from Bro. Kingsmill's speech, was succeeded in the chair by Wor. Bro. Mercer, of whom we still have a memento in the Lodge in the columns on the Master's and Warden's pedestals. At this period original lectures and addresses on the subjects of our science and cognate subjects were given from time to time.

Having moved about from place to place the Lodge at last decided to build premises of its own, and the site we now occupy was acquired by lease from Bro. Tarrant. The foundation stone was laid on the 1st February, 1853, with full Masonic honours by Right Wor. Bro. Rawson, Provincial Grand Master, the occasion being made the most imposing Masonic function which has ever been held in the colony. The Lodge was opened at 11 o'clock in the morning, a large number of members and visitors being in attendance. The secretary having read the dispensation, dated Canton, 9th January, 1853, permitting the brethren to wear Masonic clothing at the ceremony and at the ball to be held in the evening, a procession was formed, headed by the bands of the 59th Regiment and the United States man-of-war *Susquehanna*, and proceeded to the site of the projected building. Amongst the brethren of Zetland Lodge present, it may be mentioned, was His Highness Prince William of Hesse, who was then an entered apprentice. After the prayer to the G. A. U., Bro. Tarrant, the Secretary, read the inscription, and exactly as H.M.S. *Cleopatra* made the signal that the sun was at its meridian and the bells proclaimed high noon, the upper stone descended to its place and was properly adjusted, the band playing "God save the Queen." The Prov. Grand Master then tried the stone with plumb, level, and square, poured in corn, wine, and oil, and declared the building dedicated to Freemasonry. Prayers were again offered to the G. A. U. and grand honours given, and the ceremony was brought to a conclusion by a most interesting address by the Prov. Grand Master. The procession then re-formed and returned to the Lodge room, where an address was given by the Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. Mercer, and a presentation of a handsome epergne was made to the Prov. Grand Master as a testimonial of the sincere regret of the Lodge at his approaching departure.

The plate let into the foundation stone was subsequently removed to the present lodge room when the building was reconstructed and another storey added. It may now be seen in the N.E. corner.

The first meeting in the new building was held on the 13th October, 1853. Subsequently disputes arose with the lessor, but these were satisfactorily arranged and the ground is now held direct from the Government on a Crown lease at a nominal rental of \$1 per annum. In 1856 the Lodge had the pleasure of offering its hospitality to the Royal Sussex Lodge, which was invited to hold its meetings in the Hall, owing to the troublous state of Canton and most of the members being then in Hongkong. As

already mentioned, the Royal Sussex afterwards removed to Shanghai.

In 1863 a general renumbering of the Lodges working under the English Constitution took place, and the number of Zetland Lodge was changed from 768 to 525. Meantime the membership of the Lodge had largely increased, other Masonic bodies had come into existence, and the accommodation afforded by the old bungalow became too limited for the requirements of the Craft. In 1864, therefore, the question of rebuilding was discussed, and a scheme having at length been decided upon, the work was undertaken, and the present building was opened in October, 1865. No ceremony was observed on this occasion, and several brethren in Lodge expressed their disappointment at the omission. To this the answer was made that the building had been opened without ceremony in deference to the wishes of the Right Wor. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Mercer, who desired in no way to derogate from the celebrations of 1853.

Having thus provided itself with handsome and commodious premises the Lodge's subsequent history offers few events that call for special mention. The working has gone on steadily, smoothly, and prosperously, and since the foundation of the Lodge 1,350 members have joined it, either by initiation or as joining members, and the number on the roll at the present time is 117.

The exercise of charity, incumbent upon all Masons, has been continuously kept in view by Zetland Lodge. Formerly a sum was annually voted to the home Charities, but it being considered that the money could be applied to greater advantage locally, the following resolution was passed, on the 3rd September, 1889:—

"That a Committee be appointed to consider the advisability of discontinuing the large subscriptions to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls and to confer with other Lodges on the possibility of raising a local fund, to be administered by the District Grand Lodge, for the benefit of necessitous children of Masons deceased in the District."

The other Lodges heartily responded to the invitation and the result was the foundation of the Masonic Benevolence Fund of Hongkong and South China, of whose present position and the benefits it has conferred all Masons in the District may justly feel proud. Wor. Bro. Gillies was elected the first President of the Fund, an office he filled until his recent departure for Europe, and the zeal and ability with which he discharged the duties of that position, while exercised for the benefit of the District in general, must be regarded by members of Zetland as adding one more to the many substantial benefits he has conferred on this Lodge.

Having thus noted the most prominent events in the annals of the Lodge, it will be interesting to glance at its financial history and present position.

The principle of the scheme decided on at the meeting held on 2nd May, 1864, for the rebuilding of the Lodge was that of inviting subscriptions to what has since been known as the Freemasons' Hall Building Fund and to issue debentures to brethren so subscribing. The conditions of subscription were set forth on the scrip so issued. The original scrip held by Bro. H. Kingsmill, already mentioned, reads as follows:—

In response to this invitation 53 brethren subscribed various amounts ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, the total being \$13,150. Of this amount \$12,000 was deposited in the Chartered Mercantile Bank on the 1st July, 1864, an interval of two months only from the date of resolution, a result conclusively showing the earnestness and enthusiasm of the brethren then constituting the members of the Lodge. The same energy that initiated the scheme appears also to have urged the builders of the structure to a speedy completion, for on December 23rd, 1864, Chun A Tack, contractor, was paid for work done \$3,000; April 22nd, 1865, \$4,000; August 8th, 1865, \$200; November 1st, 1865, \$2,450. In 18 months retaining walls, foundations, and a superstructure (which if not perfect in all its parts is one we may still be proud of) were completed. In the years, too, immediately following the building of the Hall the reduction of the debt went on surely, if slowly, by means of donations of scrip from holders, and payments for redemption made from the Lodge funds. In 1870, five years from the date of the first meeting in the Hall, the debt

stood at \$9,900, a reduction of \$3,250. From that year up to 1889 extensive repairs and other causes prevented an equal reduction, the debt on 31st December, 1889, standing at \$8,500, or a reduction of \$1,400 only. In this year Wor. Bro. Gillies purchased scrip to the value of \$700, which he subsequently presented to the Lodge in 1892. Here it may not be out of place to enumerate the donors of scrip to the Lodge:—Bro. Rawling, \$500; Bro. D. Rutonjee, \$500; Bro. G. F. Norris, \$200; Bro. W. H. Foster, \$200; Bro. M. D. Ghandy, \$150; Wor. Bro. D. R. Caldwell, \$100; Victoria Chapter, \$400; Wor. Bro. D. Gillies, \$700; total \$2,750. In 1892 Wor. Bro. Gillies was the most active promoter of a scheme for paying off the scrip holders by obtaining an advance from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. This scheme was perceived to have many advantages and was consequently adopted by the Lodge and on the 4th July, 1892, a cheque was handed to the Trustees of the Freemasons' Hall Building Fund in full discharge of all claims of scrip holders whose whereabouts were known, the Lodge taking the responsibility of the future redemption of scrip to the amount of \$1,150 standing in the names of various subscribers whose addresses were unknown. Brethren, members of Zetland Lodge, that advance from the Bank has been repaid, the building is in a thorough state of repair, our funds are in a prosperous condition, and by the help of the G. A. O. T. U. we have every reason to be thankful for the propitious circumstances under which we celebrate this our Jubilee. But, brethren, let us all beware that our prosperity does not cause us "to be weary in well doing." Having accomplished so much with a sense of gratitude to those who have preceded us let us continue to "act in the living present" for those who may follow us, in the hope that those who celebrate the centenary of Zetland Lodge (now 525) may have equal cause for self-congratulation and praise for those who have gone before. (Applause.)

Hearty good wishes and congratulations to Zetland Lodge were then offered by Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, Deputy District Grand Master, on behalf of the District Grand Lodge; Wor. Bro. Ellis on behalf of Victoria Lodge, Wor. Bro. Robertson, on behalf of Perseverance Lodge, Wor. Bro. Spafford on behalf of United Service Lodge, Wor. Bro. Howell on behalf of St. John's Lodge, Wor. Bro. Ormiston on behalf of St. George's Lodge, No. 1152; Bro. Galsworthy on behalf of No. 1,139, South Norwood; and Bro. Naismith on behalf of the Star of Southern China Lodge, Canton.

Wor. Bro. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON was then elected an honorary member of the Lodge, and on being asked if he would accept the membership His Excellency replied that he would esteem it a great honour to belong to Zetland Lodge and to have taken part in the proceedings on this interesting occasion.

The Lodge was then closed and the brethren afterwards assembled again in the banquetting hall, where the remainder of the evening was spent in song and toast, the toasts being the health of Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, Deputy District Grand Master, of Wor. Bro. Arthur, Wor. Bro. Macdonald, and that of the committee who had carried out the arrangements for the celebration, namely, Wor. Bro. G. A. Caldwell, Bro. M. Mitchell, and Bro. Sayer.

The brethren who contributed songs were Brothers Crispin, Spriggs, Thomas, Gilchrist, Wor. Bro. Arthur, and others. Bro. G. P. Lammert presided at the piano. Shortly after twelve o'clock the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," led by Bro. Aitken.

THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE FOR CHINESE.

PROPOSED ENDOWMENT.

DIVIDED OPINIONS.

We are authorised to publish the following correspondence:—

College of Medicine,
Hongkong, 29th January, 1894.

Sir,—Referring to recent correspondence on the subject of an endowment for the College of Medicine for Chinese, the Governing Body of

the Institution ask permission to again bring to the notice of His Excellency the Governor the reasonable claim to assistance from the public funds, in consideration of the services they are directly and indirectly rendering to the community, and to renew their application for a grant of money to enable them to avail themselves of the munificent offer made to them by the Honourable E. R. Belilios (and quite recently renewed) to present them with a piece of ground in a convenient situation, and to erect upon it at his own expense a building in every way fitted for the purposes of a College, upon the condition that the Colonial Government would provide an endowment of equal value.

The land to be given by the honourable member has been valued at \$10,000. The buildings to be erected thereon are estimated to cost \$30,000, completely fitted and furnished. The sum therefore asked from the Government is only \$40,000, and the Court of the College of Medicine most respectfully request that His Excellency will be pleased to grant to them for the use of the College this sum of \$40,000. It is proposed to invest the monies and devote the income derived therefrom to the payment of the permanent staff of the College.

When this matter was before the Government on a previous occasion His Excellency was so good as to recognize and admit that the College of Medicine for Chinese was deserving of support and encouragement, and that it was capable of rendering very valuable service to the Government and to the public by providing a constant succession of qualified Chinese medical practitioners for the use of the steadily increasing population, and by dissipating the darkness of ignorance that rested over the Chinese in regard to modern medical science. If the position of the colony had at that time justified the expenditure it is believed that the grant now asked for would have been made, and the Court very respectfully submit for His Excellency's consideration that the events of the last three years have, if anything, strengthened rather than weakened the presumption in their favour. It is beginning to be recognised that in the interest of good government and of sanitary science the Chinese cannot any longer be permitted to ignore the existence of Western medicine and to continue to treat their sick, and especially the sick poor, in accordance with the dictates of an antiquated and wholly discredited system. A demand has arisen even in the colony itself for Chinese medical practitioners with a knowledge of the modern system of surgery and medicine. It has been proposed to open dispensaries in the Chinese quarter, and qualified Chinese will be required to take charge of them. The Government are in need of better and more reliable statistics as to health and disease in the colony, and only trained Chinese doctors can, for many years to come, provide the figures and the information required. The College of Medicine for Chinese has already turned out seven qualified Chinese medical practitioners, and with the assistance now asked for it will be enabled to train a greater number annually and to give them a more thorough education.

If this assistance is not granted it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for the College to continue in existence. It is depending for house room for its students and for class rooms for their instruction upon the Alice Memorial Hospital. Its Professors and Lecturers are volunteers, wholly unremunerated in any way for the time and skill they give to the instruction of the pupils, and they have to attend at the same time to the increasing demands of their own professional practice. It is getting more difficult every day to fill up the places left vacant by the absence, temporary or permanent, of the original holders of the Chairs. The medical men through whose self-sacrificing labours the good work has been started and carried on so far are beginning to feel that, now that they have successfully demonstrated the practicability of training Chinese in Western medicine and surgery, and that Chinese are willing to be trained, it is time that the colony and the community took up the work and recognised in some way that the profit is to the public and not to the professors. With a suitable building at their disposal the Court and Senate can secure more students and

give them a more finished training, and with the grant now asked for from the Government they can maintain a resident Professor, whose presence will give unity and solidity to the instruction given, and will render the College less dependent upon the members of the medical profession in the colony, and upon their being able to afford the needful time for lectures and demonstrations.

In conclusion, the Court of the College of Medicine for Chinese beg most respectfully to request that His Excellency the Governor will enable them to realize their hopes for the future of the Institution by granting them as an endowment a sum of \$40,000 from the public funds, upon the grant of which they will be in a position to claim from Mr. Belilios the land and buildings he has so generously promised.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

JOHN C. THOMSON,
Hon. Secretary,
College of Medicine for Chinese.
The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary, &c., &c., &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
10th February, 1896.

Hon. C. P. Chater,

Sir,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of the unofficial members the enclosed copy of a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the College of Medicine for Chinese, and to request that they will be so good as to favour H.E. the Governor with an expression of their views in regard to the application therein made.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

Hongkong, 13th March 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the correspondence regarding the proposed College of Medicine for the Chinese has been circulated among the unofficial members, and I now beg to communicate their opinions.

The Hon. Ho Kai remarks, "I am strongly in favour of a grant of \$40,000 from the Government so as to enable the College of Medicine for Chinese to get the benefit of Mr. Belilios' generous offer."

The Hon. E. R. Belilios writes, "I am of Mr. Ho Kai's opinion."

I beg to enclose also memoranda from the Hon. T. H. Whitehead and the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, with the latter of which I concur.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary.

MEMORANDUM BY HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD IN RE
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE FOR CHINESE.

A College of Medicine for Chinese is undoubtedly a very desirable institution, and the gratuitous and invaluable services rendered in connection therewith by the European medical practitioners in the colony are deserving of the most hearty commendation. The College merits support and encouragement, as it is probably the best means of teaching and making progress in Western medicine, but there are public buildings requiring to be constructed, far more necessary. These have a prior claim to the College of Medicine. I refer to such as the Post Office, which is unsuitable, absolutely inadequate for present requirements, and unworthy of the colony. There are other public buildings in no better condition, such as the Supreme Court House, the Land Office, the Harbour Master's Office, &c. Until the colony's financial position permits of the construction of a suitable Post Office—an absolutely necessary building, which is unquestionably far more urgent, and has a prior claim over all other new public buildings—I am decidedly opposed to the Government granting from the public funds an endowment of \$40,000 to the College of Medicine.

I would be in favour of the Government giving for a College one of the many suitable and available sites it has at its disposal, now lying fallow. If a College is considered *essentially necessary* by the community, while the colony's financial position does not warrant the expenditure of \$40,000 thereon, ratepayers would no doubt be found to raise by public subscription the required sum, estimated at \$25,000, to defray the

cost of construction. When this is done, and if the Hon. E. R. Belilios is not disposed to renew his generous offer, and endow the College to the extent of \$40,000, then I would support the incorporation of the College, and, if necessary, an annual moderate vote from the public funds towards the maintenance of the institution, provided Government will maintain adequate supervision over it.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1896.

MEMORANDUM BY HON. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

With reference to Mr. Belilios' offer regarding a College of Medicine for the Chinese, while appreciating its liberality, I am not of opinion that it is advisable for the Government to accept it in its present form. If the Government considers that such an institution is essential to the colony, and if Mr. Belilios is ready to modify the terms which he has proposed, I would suggest that the course, which I understand is customary in most parts of the world, should be pursued, namely, that the Government should furnish a suitable site, and that Mr. Belilios should put up the building and provide the endowment. Should, however, that gentleman not consent to this, and if, I repeat, the Government after full consideration of the matter is convinced that such a College is absolutely necessary to the welfare of the colony, I would then suggest that they should erect the building and without providing any endowment spend for its requirements from \$1,600 to \$2,000 per annum, a sum which represents Mr. Belilios' proposed endowment capitalized at from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. I would venture, nevertheless, to remark that while the Post Office and other Government offices are in so dilapidated a state, and will require a large sum for their repair or renewal, it is hardly an opportune occasion for the foundation of new institutions.

J. J. BELL-IRVING.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO HON. E. R.
BELILIOS.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for your consideration the enclosed memoranda by Messrs. Chater, Whitehead, and Bell-Irving on the subject of the application for a Government grant of money in aid of the Chinese College of Medicine, and to request that you will be so good as to forward them, after you have perused them, to the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

HON. E. R. BELILIOS TO COLONIAL
SECRETARY.

Hongkong, 18th March, 1896.

Sir,—In acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., enclosing memoranda by my colleagues the unofficial members of Council on the proposal that the Government should endow the College of Medicine for Chinese in the event of the site and building being contributed by myself, I beg, as a member of Council, to offer the following remarks in reply to some of the objections raised:—

1.—There is no suitable site, unless on the Praya Reclamation, that the Government could grant for the erection of a building for the College of Medicine. Ever since Sir William Des Vieux's time we have been seeking for such a site, but have failed to find one.

The original proposal was for the Government to grant the site and for me to erect the building, but owing to the inability of the Government to provide the site, the proposition has taken the present form, namely, that I should give the land and building and the Government furnish an endowment in money equivalent in value thereto.

2.—There is a precedent for the proposed endowment to the College of Medicine in the grant made by the Government to the Po Leung Keuk.

The building being erected by a private individual and endowed by the Government will ensure it a stable and permanent position, whereas if the building were erected by the Government it is unlikely that a private individual will come forward to endow it, either now or in the future.

The proposed offer of land, building, and endowment would not, if carried out, make the institution independent. Further support in

the way of extensions and gifts of money for special objects would be required to make it a complete success. The subscriptions proposed by Mr. Whitehead would therefore be timely and welcome.

3.—I will assume, then, that a private individual having given the site and the building, the Government endowed it with the sum of \$40,000, the public having subscribed a further sum of \$25,000, this would place it on a firm basis, and encourage philanthropists in the future to give it continued support and extend its usefulness.

4.—To render the College of Medicine a real success would be a task that the Government, in its present straitened circumstances, could hardly venture to undertake.

Would it not, therefore, be folly to let slip the opportunity of accepting as a gift the share I have proposed to bear in the work? If any other offer of this or similar description were to be made by any other individual I as a taxpayer should feel it my duty to support it.

5.—I think the fact should not be lost sight of that a good deal is yet required in this colony in the way of provision for the education of the Chinese in medical and sanitary matters, and it will be impossible, I fear, for the Government to do all in this direction unaided by private munificence.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

E. R. BELILIOS.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart,
Colonial Secretary, &c., &c.

MEMORANDUM BY HON. HO KAI.

I concur generally with Mr. Belilios in his views as expressed in his letter of the 18th instant to the Colonial Secretary. I do not agree with my other unofficial colleagues that a new Post Office or a Court-house or any other public building is of as much importance as the College of Medicine for the Chinese. We are daily complaining of the ignorance of the Chinese in sanitary and medical science, and we are trying our best by very drastic measures and at enormous sacrifice to eradicate from our midst such filth disease like the plague, which is doing immense harm to the trade of this colony and its prosperity. It is just such an institution like the College of Medicine we want to aid us in spreading the necessary medical knowledge among the better class of the Chinese, in order to get them to co-operate intelligently with us in advancing the sanitary condition of this colony, and, without such assistance rendered willingly, it would be well-nigh impossible to make any headway. Take, for example, the case of the allowance of 400 cubic feet of air to each healthy adult as required by law. This allowance may or may not be sufficient according to circumstances. If ventilation is bad, or as is usually the case, especially in cold and wet weather, almost entirely cut off, 400 cubic feet, or even twice or treble that allowance, would not be sufficient, but with free and constant ventilation even 200 cubic feet may be quite sufficient. It is generally admitted that no legislation can make a man religious or moral, and it is equally true that no law can make a man clean or live a sanitary and healthy life. We must leave a great deal of these to education and training. The College of Medicine will educate the Chinese to live more cleanly and healthy lives. It will further teach them to treat their sick with more science, skill, and humanity. Next to the Christian religion I cannot imagine any mission is greater than this, and I hold that it is the duty of the local Government, as well as every enlightened man in this British colony, to promote and assist that mission, if not for the sake of the poor and ignorant, at least for their own sake. We have neglected this duty long enough, and the present moment is most opportune for us all to repair our negligence and omission. The College has been inaugurated and maintained, and its works have been carried on, by a small band of philanthropists without any hope of reward and with considerable personal sacrifice. One of this band has come forward with a generous proposal to furnish the ground and build a College for the better accommodation of the increasing number of students, while another member has just gone home with the distinct object of appealing to the well-known humanity and generosity of the English public

to raise a portion of the fund for its endowment. But what would our friends in England say to us if they find that locally the taxpayers and the Government are not moving a finger to help it, and what would be the effect on those noble few who have sustained the establishment for so long, both with money and labour? Their energy and endurance, like everything human, must have a limit, but God forbid that they should give in even under the most trying and discouraging circumstances. I hope that notwithstanding the apparent callousness of some of their fellow-citizens, they will still unite in carrying on cheerfully the most useful and humane work that they have engaged in hitherto.

I do not approve of the suggested plan of a public subscription, on the ground that it is extremely difficult to raise such a big amount from the public at large, and, most especially, that the burden would ultimately fall on the shoulders of the few who have already assisted to their uttermost. This College is a public institution, and will accomplish certain objects conducive to the public good. It is therefore but right that the fund for its maintenance should come from all the members of the community alike, the Chinese contributing a just and proportionate share. This can best be done by a grant from the Government, as the money thus granted will represent the contributions from the taxpayers of all nationalities in just and equal proportions.

Dated this 19th day of March, 1896.

HO KAI.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE AT POKFULAM.

17th March.

Yesterday three animals out of the sixty remaining at the Pokfulam Dairy Farm showed symptoms of illness and they were at once isolated. It is not known yet whether they are suffering from plague, but should it be seen to-day that they are they will be immediately shot and dumped into the sea. Several carcasses have been seen floating in the sea by steamers coming to Hongkong, and the authorities are rather puzzled to know how on earth they got there. Heavy bags of stones were fastened round each carcass before they were dumped, but it seems that in many instances the dump was merely a dip, as even while carcasses were being thrown overboard some of them came up again. Three cargo boats were used on the second occasion and one suggestion is that the Sanitary Inspector who was in charge of the three boats could not superintend the proper carrying out of the work by the coolies. Of course he could not, and it will doubtless be asked by many people why one man was not placed in charge of each boat.

18th March.

Four cattle belonging to the Dairy Farm Co., were shot yesterday, the illness which they showed on the previous day having developed into plague. Seven more of the herd are now under observation and apparently the extinction of the whole lot is only a matter of time.

21st March.

No further cases of cattle plague were reported at the Sanitary Board offices yesterday. The four animals which were said to have been stricken with the disease were not, it seems, killed, as it was afterwards thought that their illness was not the result of plague and they are therefore still under observation, together with eight other animals.

24th March.

Four more animals belonging to the Dairy Company have been shot and put into the sea. There are now four under observation.

25th March.

Mr. McCallum, Secretary to the Sanitary Board, received an intimation yesterday that eight more cattle belonging to the Dairy Company were to be disposed of.

A London telegram of the 5th March to the *Chugai Hochi Shimbun* says that the Steamship Owners' Conference has met and discussed the entry of the N.Y.K. into competition for the Far Eastern trade with Europe. It was decided to maintain existing arrangements for the present.

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE.

St. Patrick's Eve was celebrated on Monday night (March 16th) by a most enjoyable dance in the City Hall. There are very few Irishmen in the colony, and therefore they cannot, like the English—when the English rise to the occasion—and the Scotch—who are ever in the green stage of patriotism—indulge in a gorgeous display or issue invitations to all and sundry. But though they be few the Irishmen give their guests a most cordial welcome, and those who were fortunate enough to be present at Monday night's celebration had a hearty evening's enjoyment. St. George's Hall was used for the dancing, St. Andrew's Hall for supper, and the Chamber of Commerce for the ladies' refreshment room. The rooms and the staircase had been very effectively decorated under the superintendence of Mr. E. D. Sanders and Mr. J. Coyle, who spared no pains to make the surroundings as pleasing as possible. The staircase was made beautiful with foliage and flowering plants, and at the head was a handsome banner bearing the words "Cead-Mille Failthe," and a harp, surrounded by shamrock, was worked upon it in silk. On the walls of the dancing room, in which the electric light was used, were placed several harps worked in roses, while "Erin-go-bragh" was dotted about in conspicuous positions. At the end of the dancing room was a very handsome mirror, which was tastefully set off by harps and foliage. Mr. R. T. Wright and Mr. S. L. Darby had charge of the refreshment room and the arrangements they made were in every way satisfactory and no one could complain of a lack of hospitality. It was very unfortunate that Major Moore, who had, as hon. secretary, worked exceptionally hard to complete the success of the dance, was unable to be present owing to ill health. The greatest credit is due to him for the pains he took in his arduous duties. The card room was well patronized, as also was the bar, and as this is happily a free port one could say in all truth, "Come and taste some good poteen, that has not paid a rap to the Queen." The Committee issued about six hundred invitations, and amongst those present during the evening were His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, Earl and Countess Spencer, and Major-General Black and Mrs. Black. Dancing was kept up until the early hours of the morning. The following was the programme, the music being supplied by the Band of the Rifle Brigade:—

Lancers	Knight of St. Patrick.
Valse	Dorothy.
Valse	Santiago.
Pas de Quatre	Iola.
Valse	River of Years.
Valse	Visions d'Amour.
Polka	Con Amore.
Valse	Love's Dreamland.
Valse	Go Bang.
Lancers	Round the Town.
Valse	Sweetbriar.
Pas de Quatre	Happy Dorkies.
Valse	Torador.
Valse	The Cloister.
Valse	Gate back to Erin.
Polka and Galop	Black and Tan.
John Peel.	

The following gentlemen were on the Committee—Mr. T. Jackson, chairman, Major Moore, hon. secretary, Mr. A. Coxon, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman, Dr. Hartigan, Lieut.-Colonel Norcott, Mr. E. D. Sanders, Mr. S. L. Darby, and Mr. R. T. Wright.

THE STRANDING OF THE HUMBER.

A Naval Court was held at Amoy on the 11th March, before Mr. C. T. Gardner, C.M.G., H.B.M. Consul, Lieut.-Commander Spencer de Horsey, H.M.S. *Plover*, and Mr. J. Pearce, master of the steamer *Tamsui*, to inquire into the circumstances attending the loss of the steamer *Humber*. The following was the finding of the Court:—

The Court having carefully inquired into the circumstances attending the stranding of the *Humber* finds that it was occasioned by the master relying on an erroneous chart: at the same time it considers that on March 2nd after sighting land the master altered the course too soon, and steered imprudently too close to the rocks.

This imprudence, though calling for notice, does not call for further action.

The Court therefore orders that the master's certificate be returned to him.

The first and second officers behaved well, and their certificates are also returned to them.

After the stranding all possible measures were taken by the master, officers, and crew for the safety of the vessel.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

The twelfth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited, was held at the Company's office, No. 9 Praya Central, on Saturday, at noon. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present—Messrs. M. E. Ezekiel, T. I. Rose, J. H. Lewis (Consulting Committee), G. H. Potts, Feng Wa Chun, W. Shewan, T. Arnold, F. Henderson, F. J. Jorge, and C. A. Tones.

The CHAIRMAN read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission we will dispense with reading the report and accounts, printed copies of which have been in your hands for some time past. When we met together on a similar occasion to this about this time last year I told you that 1894 had been an exceptionally good year, but I am glad to say that 1895 proved to be a still better year for us, and we are now compelled to consider the necessity for increasing our means of production before the demand overtakes the supply. At a private meeting held on the 29th February we consulted the shareholders on the subject, and the result is the recommendation made in our report now before you. Of course we do not mean to spend all your money at once in the purchase of machinery. The money is invested to very good purpose just now, and except for the purchase of the land, which we have now in hand, and which it is imperative we should secure at once, we shall go very slowly to work in spending it. Our prospects for this year, 1896, are good, but I must repeat that 1894 and 1895 were exceptional years, the war and subsequent operations having brought us exceptional orders which we cannot count on being repeated, and that you must not expect such results as those now presented will be obtained every year. There is little, I think, in the accounts that requires explanation, but I may remark that the old amount of \$30 which has been added to the reserve fund since last account is derived from unclaimed dividends, which according to the articles of association must be put to reserve. Sundry debtors \$12,021.05, consisting principally of customers' and agent's balances of accounts, have been collected, with the exception of one amount under \$200, and sundry creditors \$9,954.56 have since been all paid off with the exception of one or two items not yet due. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. H. POTTS seconded.

Carried.

Mr. F. HENDERSON proposed the re-election of Messrs. Lewis and Shewan to the Consulting Committee, and the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. T. I. Rose and M. D. Ezekiel to the Committee.

Mr. FENG WA CHUN seconded.

Carried.

Mr. G. H. POTTS proposed the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and F. Henderson as auditors.

Mr. LEWIS seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

Captain Franz Meyer, of the steamer *Chow Chow-fu*, was found lying unconscious at the foot of the Deshima Hatoba steps, Nagasaki, on the 11th March. He was suffering from concussion of the brain. The unfortunate captain has since died. It is believed he slipped and fell down the wet steps in the dark and no foul play is suspected.

GEORGE FENWICK AND CO., LIMITED.

A meeting of the shareholders in Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited, was held on the 19th March, at noon, at the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. G. Fenwick presided, and there were also present—Messrs. W. Parlance and A. Rodger (Consulting Committee), A. Woolley, R. C. Wilcox, F. Henderson, J. H. Cox, G. C. Cox, J. Rodger, A. C. More, W. G. Winterburn, and H. Hyndman.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having now been in your hands for some days I will, with your consent, follow the usual course and take them as read. The year under review has, I hope, proved satisfactory to all. The gross earnings have fallen off, but the profit realized shows an improvement on the past year, accounted for by having a better exchange and cheaper coals. Our stock had somewhat diminished, but this has been added to again and is now about as it was in December 1894. A fair allowance has been made for depreciation of machinery. All our machines stand at a low valuation and are in good condition; still I consider it a wise policy to write our plant down year by year. (Applause.) The amount carried forward is again increased. This has been done with the object of adding materially to our earning power. Improved machinery will this year be added to our boiler shed. This, I think I said, would be done during the past year, but I deemed it prudent to give the building more time to show whether any settlement took place before adding heavy weights to it, as it has been built entirely on reclaimed ground. I am glad to say it has shown itself to be both substantial and useful, and no doubt has assisted in reducing cost by affording as it does excellent shelter for the men. There is nothing left for me to say regarding the accounts, which I think show a clear and precise statement of our affairs. Should any of the shareholders present have any questions to put relative to the business I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability. Before sitting down I wish to tell you that I am going home next month. When there, I shall have a look round and select for our boiler shed a travelling crane and hydraulic rivetting machinery. I would have ordered these previously, but as I was going home I thought it advisable to see for myself the latest improvements in this class of machinery. Mr. Winterburn will be appointed Acting Manager and another Engineer has been engaged to assist him. I have every confidence that the business will be conducted as successfully under the management of Mr. Winterburn as heretofore. (Applause.)

Mr. WOOLLEY—How long do you expect to be away, Mr. Fenwick?

The CHAIRMAN—I expect to be away about a year. I cannot tell exactly.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WOOLLEY—I have very great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. I am sure I voice the opinion of the shareholders generally when I express intense satisfaction at the very creditable statement placed before us by the General Manager; it reflects the utmost credit upon all concerned. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you, Mr. Woolley, for your remarks on behalf of the staff of the Company. I am glad to say that those under me have given every assistance in their power and have worked very hard.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. G. C. Cox proposed the re-election of Messrs. Parlance and A. Rodger as members of the Consulting Committee.

Mr. WILCOX seconded.

Carried.

Mr. WOOLLEY proposed and Mr. J. RODGER seconded the re-election of Mr. Arnold as auditor.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow morning.

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the fourteenth ordinary annual meeting to be held at the offices of the General Agents on the 27th March:—

The General Agents beg to submit to the shareholders their report and statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1895.

There was a steady demand for sugar in the Spanish market during the year, and the Refinery at Malabon was kept continuously at work from the 1st of February until 30th of November, but owing to the low prices ruling everywhere the margin of profit was moderate.

Inclusive of \$10,202.65 brought forward from the year 1894, the net gain on working amounts to \$69,727.18, which the General Agents and Consulting Committee recommend should be appropriated as follows:—

To apply to reduction of property account	\$25,000.00
Dividend of \$5 per share	35,000.00
Carry forward to next account	9,727.18
	\$69,727.18

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Consulting Committee elected at the last annual meeting consisted of Messrs. D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis. During the temporary absence of the former from the colony Mr. R. Cooke has been invited to join the Board in his place. Messrs. R. Cooke and J. H. Lewis offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1896.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT. 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Property account		\$741,342.43	
Less—			
Written off for depreciation	\$74,000.00		
Value of granulator sold as old metal	200.00		
		74,200.00	
			667,142.43
Steam-launch Precursor	\$4,000.00		
Less written off for depreciation	2,000.00		
		2,000.00	
Refined sugar		65,027.82	
Raw sugar		22,914.30	
Molasses		874.78	
Coal, charcoal, stores, mat bags, &c.		34,661.98	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		112,700.97	
Cash		5,986.91	
Sundry debtors		18,311.75	
		\$929,620.94	

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account		700,000.00	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s advance account		50,000.00	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account		99,533.50	
Sundry creditors		10,360.26	
Profit and loss account		69,727.18	
		\$929,620.94	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To interest		8,268.95	
To remuneration to Consulting Committee		1,200.00	
To General Agents' and Manila Agents' commission		11,325.92	
To auditor's fee		150.00	
To exchange		92.23	
To balance		69,727.18	
		\$90,764.28	
Cr.		\$	c.
By balance from last year		10,202.65	
By gain on working		80,561.63	
		\$90,764.28	

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEETING.

On Saturday afternoon the annual athletic meeting promoted by the Victoria Recreation Club was held at the Happy Valley. Notwithstanding the raw cold weather the attendance was very large indeed and amongst those present were His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, Admiral Buller, and Major-General Black. The meeting was a decided success. The competitors were more numerous

than in previous years, and the sport was excellent and afforded much enjoyment, while the various events were started in excellent time, a fact which, considering the great length of the programme, reflects considerable credit upon the active officials. During the afternoon the band of H.M.S. *Centurion* played many selections of music. The following is a list of officers:—

PATRONS.—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., H.E. Vice-Admiral Alex. Buller, C.B., H.E. Major-General Wilson Black, C.B., Commodore G. T. H. Boyes, R.N.

COMMITTEE.—Hon. Captain W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., Vice-Chairman; Sir Robert Arbuthnot, R.N., Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. P. G. Davies, R.A., Mr. A. Denison, Mr. R. F. Lammert, Mr. R. K. Leigh, Mr. W. Machell, Major Pemberton, R.B., Mr. C. H. Thompson, Captain Tunnard, R.N.

JUDGES.—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Hon. Capt. W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., Major Pemberton, R.B., Captain Tunnard, R.N.

REFEREE.—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart.

HANDICAPPERS.—Sir Robert Arbuthnot, R.N., Lieut. P. G. Davies, R.A., Mr. R. F. Lammert.

CLERKS OF THE COURSE.—Sir Robert Arbuthnot, R.N., Mr. G. H. Potts, Lieut. P. G. Davies, R.A., Mr. C. H. Thompson, Mr. W. Machell.

STARTERS.—Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. A. Denison.

TIME-KEEPERS.—Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. E. J. Hughes, Mr. R. K. Leigh.

HON. TREASURER.—Mr. W. Armstrong.

HON. SECRETARY.—Mr. E. D. Sanders.
120 YARDS FLAT RACE (HANDICAP); first prize presented by G. C. C. Master, Esq., second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the final.

FIRST HEAT.

F. H. Kew, scratch... 1
W. Armstrong, 1 yd. ... 2
C. M. Firth, 2 yds.; C. M. Dammers, R.N., 2 yds.; C. T. Kew, 3 yds.; J. dos Remedios, 4 yds.; J. S. Bruce, 5 yds.; C. E. Hance, 8 yds., also entered. Time—13 secs.

SECOND HEAT.

G. D. Campbell, 1 yd. ... 1
H. S. Thomson, R.N., 5 yds. ... 2
E. W. Townsend, scratch; G. R. Blunt, R.N., 2 yds.; A. C. Paddy, 3 yds.; J. M. Steel, R.N., 5 yds.; W. M. Humphreys, 6 yds., also entered. Time—13½ secs.

FINAL HEAT.

F. H. Kew ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2
Time—12½ secs.

LONG JUMP (three tries); prize presented by D. R. Sassoon, Esq.

F. H. Kew, 18 ft. 9 in. ... 1
P. Hyndman, 16 ft. 11 in. ... 2

There were only two competitors.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL (three tries); prize presented by Hongkong Cricket Club.

C. G. Klinck, 84 yds. ... 1
W. Armstrong, 79½ yds. ... 2

J. S. Bruce, F. H. Kew, A. S. Anton, W. M. Humphreys, and C. M. Firth also entered.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE; trial heats; first prize presented by Vice-Admiral Buller; second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the final.

FIRST HEAT.

F. H. Kew ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2
Four started. Time—11½ secs.

SECOND HEAT.

C. T. Kew ... †
G. D. Campbell ... †
Four started. Time—11½ secs.

FINAL.

F. H. Kew ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2
Won by a yard. Time—10½ secs.

PUTTING THE SHOT (16 lbs.); winners at previous meetings at Hongkong and elsewhere to be penalised one foot; prize presented.

W. Armstrong, 31 ft. 6 in. ... 1
Lieut. James, R.N., 31 ft. 6 in. ... 2

Armstrong was awarded the prize because Lieut. James was penalised a foot. J. S. Bruce, C. M. Firth, David Hatellie, R.N., and D. McHardy also entered.

HIGH JUMP (three tries); prize presented by Victoria Recreation Club.

P. Hyndman ... 1
W. Armstrong and C. M. Firth also competed. The winner cleared 4 ft. 8 in.

HALF MILE FLAT RACE; first prize presented by Taikoo; second prize presented.

Entries.—A. McKirdy, J. S. Bruce, W. Armstrong, H. W. Looker, R. F. Lammert, J. M. E. de Carvalho, R. Henderson, T. Meek, Fr. Silva Netto, H. Arthur, E. D. Sanders, A. S. Anton, W. M. Humphreys, C. M. Firth, and Lieut. F. A. Powlett, R.N.

R. F. Lammert ... 1
C. M. Firth ... 2

Only two finished. Time—2 mins 19½ secs.

120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, 10 flights; previous winners at Hongkong or elsewhere to be penalised 2½ yards; first prize, the Standard Cup, presented; second prize presented.

Lieut. James, R.N. ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2

P. Hyndman also competed, but fell. Time—20 secs.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE (HANDICAP); first prize presented by T. Jackson, Esq.; second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the final.

F. H. Kew, 4 yds. ... 1
C. T. Kew, 12 yds. ... 2

The two heats were run together. Eleven ran, F. H. Kew just beating his brother.

Time, 25½ secs.

BICYCLE RACE; one mile, start in saddle; first prize presented.

A. McKirdy ... 1
C. G. Klinck ... 2

Three started. Time—3 mins. 52½ secs.

TUG-OF-WAR; trial heats; 8 men a side; open to non-commissioned officers and men of the army, navy, and police; each ship, regiment, or corps may enter one team only; to be pulled over 15 feet; no spikes or nails allowed; no sitting down; no holes to be dug in the ground before pulling; prize presented.

FIRST HEAT.

Hongkong Police beat Hongkong Royal Artillery.

SECOND HEAT.

12th Company Royal Artillery beat H.M.S. *Immortalite*.

FINAL.

H. K. Police beat 12th Company Royal Artillery.

HALF MILE FLAT RACE; open to soldiers, sailors, and police; entries to be given to the starter not later than 2.15 p.m.; first prize presented; second prize presented.

Corporal Hale, R.B. ... 1
Gunda Singh ... 2

Seven started. Time—2 mins. 17½ secs.

ONE MILE FLAT RACE (HANDICAP); first prize presented by J. D. Humphreys, Esq.; second prize presented.

Entries.—H. W. Looker, scratch; A. McKirdy, 20 yds.; R. F. Lammert, 20 yds.; J. M. E. de Carvalho, 20 yds.; C. M. Dammers, R.N., 30 yds.; J. H. Logan, 40 yds.; T. Meek, 40 yds.; E. D. Sanders, 40 yds.; A. S. Anton, 40 yds.; C. M. Firth, 50 yds.; C. E. Hume, 50 yds.; Fr. Silva Netto, 50 yds.; J. S. Bruce, 60 yds.; W. Armstrong, 60 yds.; Leo d'Almada e Castro, 60 yds.; R. Henderson, 60 yds.; J. A. Steel, R.N., 70 yds.; H. Grant Smith, 80 yds.; A. A. Alves, 80 yds.; J. D. Danby, 80 yds.; and A. E. Alves, 120 yds.

H. W. Looker, scratch ... 1
C. M. Dammers, 30 yds. ... 2
C. E. Hume, 50 yds. ... 3

Fifteen ran and the finish was very exciting. Time—5 mins. 9½ secs.

120 YARDS VETERANS' RACE (HANDICAP).—Competitors to be over 35 years of age and not less than ten years' residence in India, China, or the Tropics; 1½ yards start to be given for each year over 35 years of age; first prize presented by Hon. C. P. Chater; second prize presented.

W. Macbean, 9 yds. ... 1
C. H. Thompson, scratch ... 2
W. A. Cruickshank, scratch ... 3

SACK RACE; prize presented by Hon. Capt. W. C. H. Hastings, R.N.

C. T. Kew ... 1
W. Armstrong ... 2

Six started.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE (CHALLENGE CUP) (to be won two years in succession before becoming the property of a competitor); first prize presented by H. N. Mody, Esq.; second prize presented.

F. H. Kew ... 1
Four started and Kew came in alone. Time—51½ secs.

CONSOLATION RACE, 120 YARDS; post entries; open to all competitors (except those in open events) who have run but not won a prize; prize presented.

J. dos Remedios ... 1
L. d'Almada e Castro ... 2

These two ran a dead heat and Remedios won the deciding heat in 13½ secs.

At the conclusion of the sports the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Hastings, for whom cheers were heartily given.

THE MAXIM GUN CORPS' CARBINE COMPETITION.

The usual monthly carbine competition for the Maxim Gun Corps Challenge Cup was held on Sunday morning last, on which occasion Corporal Smyth won the coveted trophy outright, having been the winner on the two previous occasions. The cup, which is a very handsome one, has been competed for some twenty times in all and owing to the stringent conditions, i.e., of being the winner three times in succession, Corporal Smyth is to be congratulated in now having obtained the absolute possession of same. We need hardly add that he deserved his success, as he has won no less than twelve out of the twenty competitions held. The cup was bought by subscription raised in the Corps, but we are glad to state that owing to the kindness of one who has their interests at heart another handsome trophy has been promised, and the monthly carbine competitions will continue to be held as before. With reference again to Sunday's competition we append a few of the best scores, and would add that accurate shooting was difficult, as the weather was hazy and the wind though light was very uncertain. These conditions doubtless accounted in some measure for the breakdown of "shots" who under more favourable circumstances might have been expected to do better, particularly Gunner G. P. Lammert, who was leading by 3 points at 200 yards:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Total.
Corporal Smyth	28	30	58
Gunner G. P. Lammert	31	25	56
Col.-Sergt. F. Maitland	21	26	47
Sergeant Sanders	21	22	43
Gunner Crombie	24	14	38

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE DEFENCE OF THE COLONY AND THE EXTENSION OF ITS FRONTIER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—In response to my letter of the 9th inst. "Another Britisher" writes as follows:—"Before dealing with the matter as an Imperial interest, it is natural to ask: What is Hongkong herself willing to do to remedy this matter?" i.e., the insufficient means of defence at the disposal of the colony. The answer is: Hongkong is a Crown colony, and is kept up as such, not for any intrinsic value in itself alone, but for its value to the British Empire at large, first as a coaling station for her vessels of war, and, secondly, as a tactical base for the defence of British colonies and commerce. Therefore the Home Government as the head of the British Empire must be held responsible for the efficiency of its defences. The authorities here are not to be blamed in this matter, for I happen to know that representations have been sent home as regards the insufficient means of defence of the colony. The distance of Hongkong from the home country is so great, and there are so many other matters nearer home, that it is not very surprising if the home au-

thorities should not be quite alive to the necessities of the colony. But the British residents here ought to be, for it affects them personally, and in case of war breaking out they would be the greatest sufferers. Therefore it is their duty, not only to themselves but to their country, to lay this matter before the Home Government, through the proper channels. This can only be done by getting up an agitation.

Mr. Editor, I was in Hongkong for six weeks just before the commencement of the late China and Japan war. Since then no material advance has been made in the defensive power of the colony, and yet the chances of war have increased a hundred fold. Certainly the British squadron out here has been considerably strengthened, but so have the squadrons of other Powers. Powers that eighteen months ago we had every reason to regard as friends have turned out to be anything but so. An addition of two or three more forts, mounting between them half-a-dozen to a dozen big guns, would be sufficient to guarantee the safety of the colony. The safety of the colony once assured would give our Naval Authorities greater confidence and latitude in defending Imperial interests in the Pacific and Indian oceans, as also in the China seas. Now as to the suggestions made by "Another Britisher." I am sorry to say that not one of them will hold water, for the simple reason that it would require an Act of Parliament to be passed before any free-born Britain or any foreigner living under the protection of the British flag could be forced to join the Army or Navy. So no exemption taxes can be collected. The sequence of the whole matter is that the colony is "as you were." However, Volunteering must be encouraged. There are plenty of young men living in Hongkong who would be doing a double duty by joining the Volunteers; first, to their country, and then to themselves, for a little drill would do them a lot of good, and a few field days would teach them something worth knowing.

A Volunteer Fire Brigade might also be started on very much the same lines as that in Shanghai. Foreigners should be encouraged to join. No doubt many would be only too willing to do so. In doing so they would be not only giving some return to the colony for privileges they enjoy by living under the free trade flag of Great Britain, but they would be doing that which I fancy would fetch them more than anything else, and that is, they would be protecting their own properties. This Fire Brigade would not be only useful in times of peace, but also in time of war, for we may be perfectly sure incendiary fires would be started by evil-disposed Chinese if they saw the colonial forces engaged with an enemy. Once allow these fires to get a hold, rioting, pillaging, and murdering of European women and children would be the next step.

In regard to "An Old Naval Reserve Man" I can but say, get the colony to agitate for an extension of the Kowloon frontier; having got that extension, start waterworks, build quarters for the Chinese, and make them go over there. By doing so we relieve the colony from the dangers of over-population and all its accompanying horrors. No good has ever yet been done without an agitation, and it is for the purpose of getting up an agitation that I write this. Surely Mr. Editor, you can help.

BRITISHER.

Hongkong, 23rd March, 1896.

The Tientsin local authorities have issued proclamations announcing the decision to allow private enterprise in the manufacture of fire-arms, swords, etc., in that city. "Although," say the proclamations, "the private manufacture of such articles has hitherto been forbidden under pain of extreme penalties, still as it is general in Western countries and it is our desire to emulate whatever is good in the West, this law has recently been abrogated by H.I.M. the Emperor for the benefit of the country and the encouragement of private enterprise," etc. Four private companies are therefore to be allowed to trade in this line, but they must be registered at the local yamen—N. C. *Daily News*.

HONGKONG.

More cattle suffering from rinderpest have been killed this week at the Pokfulam Farm and very few animals now remain. The Criminal Sessions were held this week and the principal case heard was one in which an extraordinary tale of losses by fortune telling was told. On Thursday a meeting of the shareholders in George Fenwick and Co., Limited, was held, and the annual athletic meeting promoted by the Victoria Recreation Club was held on Saturday. On Saturday the Zetland Lodge further celebrated its jubilee by a dinner and meeting in the Masonic Hall, and on the same day a meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong Rope Co., Limited, was held. The Willard Opera Company opened a short season this week and have drawn crowded houses.

There were 2,323 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 225 were Europeans.

In the football match on the 19th March Hongkong Football Club beat the Royal Engineers by one goal to nil.

We regret to learn that the Hon. C. P. Chater is at present confined to the house by a severe attack of rheumatic gout.

On Friday afternoon Mr. W. C. Barlow gave a very interesting lecture on Chinese chess in the Odd Volumes Society's room.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 22.9, and for the Chinese population 28.5.

We understand that as many as 133 fees have been paid at this centre for Oxford Senior and Junior Local and Preliminary Examinations from Hongkong and Kowloon.

Since the commencement of the year 296 plague cases have been dealt with in the colony. On Monday only two cases were reported, but on Tuesday the number of cases was ten.

The Earl and Countess Spencer left on the 18th March by the C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*. Earl Cairns was also a passenger by the same steamer, which had a large passenger list of over seventy.

The tourist season seems to be rather brisk this year, and the passenger lists are augmented in consequence. The P. & O. steamer *Peshawar*, which arrived on the 20th March, had nearly a hundred passengers.

Amongst the passengers who arrived by the *Peshawar* on the 20th March were the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Muirhead, for Shanghai, Bishop and Mrs. Bickersteth, for Yokohama, and Bishop and Mrs. Audry, for Kobe.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Collected by Li Shui Ying..... \$170

We hear that the Committee of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association have telegraphed to Singapore inviting Sir Claude MacDonald, the new Minister to Peking, to dine with the Association while passing through Hongkong.

A full dress parade of the Hongkong Regiment took place on the morning of the 17th March in the presence of H.E. the Governor, Earl Spencer, General Black, and Admiral Buller. A number of ladies, including Countess Spencer, also witnessed the parade.

There was no steamer to Macao on Wednesday, 18th March. Owing to heavy fog the *Heungshan* did not arrive at Macao on Tuesday evening, having to lie somewhere outside all night and getting in only at nine o'clock yesterday morning. She will leave Macao at the usual time to-day.

There was a good deal of firing on the night of the 18th March, the occasion being the repulse by the Garrison of an imaginary landing by an enemy in the neighbourhood of Pokfulam, the forts on Stonecutters at the same time being engaged against the enemy's fleet approaching from the south.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the following Ordinances:—An Ordinance to prevent doubts as to the validity of documents heretofore sealed with the Seal of the Colonial Court of Admiralty, an Ordinance to amend the practice as to the vacating of the registration of a *Lis pendens*, the North Borneo Extradition Ordinance, and the Basel Mission Incorporation Ordinance.

Acting Sergeant McLennan has won the handicap cup for shooting which was presented by Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police. The cup was competed for by the members of the police force every month and McLennan prove the best shot. His highest score was 64, which he made twice.

Four robbers, one of whom was armed with a dagger, boarded a house boat off Taikoktsui on Monday night and forced the occupants to maintain silence. The thieves then plundered the boat and took away with them \$26 in money and \$10 worth of clothing. This class of robbery is getting a little common just now and it is to be hoped that before long the police will be able to check the dangerous evil.

On the afternoon of the 18th March Mr. Armstrong sold seven lots of leasehold property by auction. The first five lots were in Tsz Mi Alley and were sold as follows—No. 3 for \$1,600, No. 17 \$2,050, No. 19 \$2,200, No. 21 \$2,250, No. 23 \$2,450. The remaining two lots were at 126 and 127, Praya West, and each fetched \$5,600. The lots in Tsz Mi Alley and also the seventh lot, on Praya West, were bought by Chu Seong, and the sixth lot by Yung Cheung.

Referring to the opening of the West River the *Extremo Oriente* urges the importance of at once proceeding with the dredging of Macao harbour so as to render it accessible to steamers. Unless this is done, our contemporary says, the current of trade will take another direction, leaving Macao on one side, and leading to the establishment of a new port between Lappa and the island of D. Joao, to the manifest injury of the colony, which would be reduced to a mere suburb of the new port.

Mr. Justice Wise, Puisne Judge, will shortly go home on leave. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith will probably be appointed to the Acting Judgeship during Mr. Justice Wise's absence, and it is reported that Commander Hastings will replace Mr. Sercombe Smith on the bench at the Magistracy and that Mr. Lethbridge, who returned from leave by the M. M. steamer *Yarra* on Saturday, will act as Captain Superintendent of Police as well as in his substantive office of Superintendent of the Gaol.

Two ladies went to make a purchase at a shop in Jervois Street two or three days ago, when one of them was robbed of her watch and chain. They had to go to the second floor of the shop and on returning down the narrow steps one lady missed her watch. She suspected a man land threatened to call a policeman, when one of the occupants of the shop took alarm and came downstairs with the watch in his hand. He said that the owner had dropped it on the floor. This, however, was certainly not the case. The floor was a red bricked one and if the watch had fallen it would of course have shown marks of damage, whereas none were to be seen. The incident shows that ladies cannot be too careful when shopping.

At the Police Court on the 20th March before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, two men were charged with intimidation. The prisoners were occasional hands at the Hungnam Docks and worked as painters. Some dissatisfaction had been expressed by some of the painters because they were refused a rise of wages and a strike was threatened. On Wednesday fourteen men were engaged at Taikoktsui and as they were walking to the docks the prisoners met them and threatened them with violence if they went to work at the docks. In consequence of the threat extra police were put on duty at Hungnam and the prisoners were arrested. His Worship sent each of them to goal for three months with hard labour, the maximum penalty.

Mr. Mathieson, late Chief Inspector of Police in Hongkong, died on the 7th February at Banff. Mr. Mathieson had been in the Hongkong Police Force from 1872 to last year, when he returned home on leave. He afterwards got married, but owing to ill-health he was not allowed to return to take up his position and he retired in December last on a pension. His health gradually gave way and, to the regret of all who knew him, he was not destined to enjoy his pension for long. Mr. Mathieson, besides being a most capable and energetic officer, was a most kind-hearted and genial gentleman and his death has caused genuine regret not only amongst the police force but amongst all his numerous friends in the colony.

We hear that a Devonshire dinner was held at the Hongkong Club on Saturday evening, when eighteen Devonians sat down, with Vice-Admiral Buller, C.B., in the chair. The Queen and the County having been duly toasted, a resolution was passed to form themselves into a society to be called "The Devonian Society in Hongkong" and Admiral Buller was elected President. Songs followed the speeches and many a good "tell" in Devon lingo concluded a very jolly evening.

About six o'clock on the morning of the 17th March the British steamer *Menelaus* (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, agents) was leaving the harbour for Shanghai when she went aground near the Commissariat Pier. A junk got in the way of the steamer and it was while avoiding a collision that the vessel touched bottom. Fortunately it was a mud bank, and in four hours the vessel was got off by a tug belonging to the Dock Company, and as no damage had been sustained she was enabled to proceed on her way to Shanghai.

Late on Sunday night a dead Chinaman was picked up in a yard at the back of a shop in Second Street. The body had several marks of violence upon it and the police at first thought the man had been the victim of foul play. This idea, however, was soon dispelled by inquiries which were made. The man had not been murdered. He had been gambling in a house with a number of men when an alarm was raised that the police were coming, and he took the nearest route out of the house. He opened the window and jumped through, with the result that he suffered injuries which proved fatal.

We believe that a petition has been forwarded, or is to be forwarded, to the Government by several Chinamen complaining that plague patients at the Kennedytown Hospital are not allowed to be visited by their friends should they wish to settle their affairs. We have seen Dr. Atkinson on the subject and he informs us that there is no truth in the allegation. Every plague patient admitted to the hospital is afforded the privilege of being visited by friends, and arrangements for the disposal of property can be made without any hindrance. The name and address of each patient and a list of the property found upon him are recorded in a book and forwarded to the Registrar-General's office and also to the Tung Wah Hospital, so that in case a patient's friends are not in the colony they can, should death occur, learn all particulars at either of these places. Of course some of the patients become too delirious to be seen, but whenever possible a patient can be seen by friends after obtaining an order from Dr. Atkinson.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. R. H. Mortimore goes to take charge of the British Consulate at Wuhu, Mr. E. F. Bennett going to Shanghai as assistant in the Consulate-General.

The four-masted American schooner *Lyman D. Foster*, on arrival at Shanghai on the 28th March, reported that while at Puget Sound the cook, a Japanese, shot the captain and then jumped overboard and was drowned.

His Excellency the Governor-General of Indo-China, M. Rousseau, was a passenger for Saigon by the French mail steamer *Yarra*. He landed at Singapore, where he was received by a guard of honour, and lunched with the Governor.

According to Bangkok papers negotiations have been going on through Mr. Jerome Dyer for the sale of the two Australian gunboats *Victoria* and *Albert* to the Siamese Government. It is said the price asked was \$45,000, which was subsequently reduced to \$30,000 without the armament, but the negotiations do not appear to have resulted in a contract.

According to a Reuter's telegram.—In a debate in the Reichstag the Foreign Minister said that Germany had been obliged to join France and Russia against Japan in the first instance, not from any hostility to Japan or partiality for China, but solely to guard her own interests. The young energetic Japanese nation, which had shown her sword to be sharp both at sea and on land, might now count on the protection of Germany, and he hoped soon to place the commercial relations of Germany with Japan on a firm basis.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 24th March.—Tsattees and Re-reels.—Nothing doing. Holders of the latter class have at length given way and would sell at \$20/25 per picul lower than our last quotations. Even these concessions fail to interest buyers. Filatures.—The demand for these sorts has been very limited and the lower prices offered by Lyons have tended to further curtail business. At present rates of Exchange the two markets are \$15/25 apart, notwithstanding that holders have given way \$15/20 per picul since our last. Prices paid are: \$6424 for Min King Kun 11/13, \$620 for Wing Wo Lun 10/11, \$610 for Kwong Pou Lun 10/11, \$595 for How King Cheung 13/15. It is reported that, in view of the large supply likely to be carried over to the new season, many flature houses are reselling a portion of their stocks of cocoons to native consumption in preference to reeling them for foreign export. There is a total absence of demand from America. Waste is, if anything, slightly weaker. Prices are very irregular according to quality, which is so mixed that it is almost impossible to give reliable quotations. Stocks:—Tsattee, 5/600 bales; Filature, 10,000 bales, reeled and unreeled, to close of season.

SHANGHAI, 19th March:—(From Messrs. Cronie and Burkill's circular.)—London advices of 17th current quote a dull market, but quotations are unchanged at 10/6 for Blue Elephants. Transactions in White Silk are confined to one purchase of Bird chop Chunling at Tls. 3924, but there appears to be rather more inclination to do business if holders would offer reasonable concessions. Yellow Silks.—Have changed hands fairly freely; some 150 bales have been settled of Mienchow, Mienyang, and Fooyungs at quotations given below. Waste Silk.—No transactions are reported. Pongees.—Some 2,000 pieces 21/22 in. by 70 yds. White Cloths weighing 55/57 oz. have been settled at Tls. 144 to Tls. 154, and 3,000 pieces Shangtings at Tls. 2.60 to Tls. 2.65 for 22/23 oz. makes in various widths. Purchases include:—Tsattees.—Bird chop Chunling at Tls. 3924. Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 2434, Mienyang at Tls. 225 to Tls. 2424, Fooyung at Tls. 210.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—20th March:—This week has been a quiet one as regards sales and very few transactions are on record. Clearances are fairly satisfactory and dealers have been too busy selling and shipping their goods to buy. Generally they regard home markets as too high, but if values remain steady must begin to buy shortly. Nothing is reported in Lead or Nailrods. Contracts have been made for 10,000 tons Bar Iron. Iron Wire.—Stocks and cargo afloat and "to arrive" together are equal to about eight months' supplies and no orders are to be had on this side at present. Pig Iron.—100 tons Garscherrie, No. 1, has been done at \$26. Tinplates.—500 boxes have been settled privately. Scrap Material.—No sales except 50 tons Shoes (London) and 40 tons Old Round Iron.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—The market is dull and prices are slightly weaker. Quotations for Formosa are \$78.50 to \$79.00. During the past week sales have been 150 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—There is no change to report in the position of the market. Following are the quotations:—

Shackloong, No. 1, White...\$7.38 to 7.40 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.72 to 6.75 "
Shackloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.72 to 4.75 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.60 to 4.62 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.35 to 7.38 "
do. " 2, White... 6.67 to 6.70 "
do. " 1, Brown... 4.60 to 4.62 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.51 to 4.54 "
Fochow Sugar Candy... 10.95 to 11.00 "
Shackloong " " " 9.80 to 9.84 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, Hongkong to London, 12th March, took:—14 cases Cigars, 8 rolls Matting, 5 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 3 packages Sundries; for France:—113 bales Raw Silk, 1 case Silk Piece Goods, and 2 cases Blackwoodware; for Milan:—80 bales Raw Silk.

The German steamer *Senta*, Hongkong to Marseilles, 12th March, took:—51 bales Canes, 1 case Silk, 1 package Blackwoodware, and 10 boxes Essential Oil; for Havre:—4 cases Porcelain, 6 cases Blackwoodware, 81 cases Chinaware, 20 bales Split Bamboos, 263 bales Bambooware, 8

cases Human Hair, and 23 rolls Matting; for Havre option:—Hamburg:—33 bales Galangal, 1 case Curios, 5 cases Teasticks, 10 bales Human Hair, and 8 packages Matting; for Havre option:—Hamburg option London:—405 cases Camphor; for Hamburg:—108 bales Rattans, 28 packages Firecrackers, 14 bales Canes, 50 bales Galangal, 20 cases Cassia Oil, 2 cases Private Effects, 1,750 packages Tea, and 5 cases Paper; for Hamburg option London:—32 bales Rattans, and 20 cases Bristles; for Bremen:—8 packages Private Effects.

The steamer *Melbourne*, Hongkong to Continent, 18th March, took:—202 bales Raw Silk, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, 134 packages Tea, 14 cases Effects, 1 case Curios, and 1 package Chairs.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th March, 1896.—Bengal.—There has been a decline in rates owing to the absence of demand and news of a fall in prices from India. Current quotations are \$757½ for New Patna, \$775 for Old Patna, \$742½ for New Benares, and \$780 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—Prices have further weakened, and the market is quiet. The following are the latest figures:—

New ... \$750 with allowance 2½ to 3½ catties.
Old (2 yrs.) \$760 " 2 to 3 "
Older " 770 " 1½ to 2½ "

Persian.—The market has continued sluggish and a further drop in the prices of Paper-wrapped drug has taken place. Closing quotations are \$600 to \$630 for Oily and \$650 to \$700 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna 1,000 chests
Old Patna 850 "
New Benares 550 "
Old Benares 130 "
Malwa 300 "
Persian 1,390 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 18	785	795	765	790	750/760	770
Mar. 19	780	790	750	780	750/760	770
Mar. 20	770	780	750	775	750/760	770
Mar. 21	760	775	745	770	750/760	770
Mar. 22	760	775	745	770	750/760	770
Mar. 23	765	780	750	780	750/760	770
Mar. 24	762½	780	747½	780	750/760	770
Mar. 25	757½	775	742½	780	750/760	770

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 24th March.—Sales in Bengal have been made at slightly lower rates, stocks of which keep steadily increasing and now stand at 4,250 bales. Stocks of Ningpo about 300 bales.

Bombay \$12.00 to 16.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee 12.00 to 15.50 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca 14.25 to 15.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese.. 19.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.. 20.50 to 21.00 "
Madras 13.00 to 17.00 "
Sales: 615 bales Bengal, Rangoon and Dacca; 100 bales Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG 25th March.—The weakness last noted has continued and prices are declining. Closing quotations are:—

per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary 2.45 to 2.47
" Round, good quality 2.64 to 2.66
" Long 2.72 to 2.75
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.62 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.80 to 2.83
" White 3.14 to 3.17
" Fine Cargo 3.30 to 3.33

COALS.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—There is no change to report in the position of the market. Quotations are:—

Cardiff \$12.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
Australian ... 7.50 to 8.00 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump... \$5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, steady
Milke Small... 4.85 to — ex ship, do
Moji Lump ... 4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Lump... 6.00 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Small... 4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.
Hongay Lump. 7.00 to — ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

A Kobe paper says that a religious festival was to be held on the camp ground, Hiroshima, on the 29th ult. and 1st inst., when prayers were to be offered for the repose of the souls of the horses killed on the battlefield. A horse race is announced as one of the attractions of the festivals.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 11th March reads:—It is believed in Government circles that the alleged secret treaty between Russia and China, recently published, is without foundation, though it is probable that Russia has secured some concessions from China with respect to the anchoring of her war-ships at Port Arthur and the construction of a railway across the northern part of Manchuria. [These, it will be seen, are the main items of the alleged treaty.] It is surmised that the object of the publication of this alleged treaty in an English journal is to induce Great Britain to take a more active part in Oriental questions.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) learn direct from Chêngtu that the rumours of renewed troubles there are greatly exaggerated. The Canadian Mission has had no trouble whatever, and the little disagreeables at the American Mission have had no importance. Although the Provincial Treasurer, who was really quite as guilty of promoting last year's outrages as the ex-Viceroy, is flourishing, the officials generally are behaving towards the mission in the most laudable manner. An excellent police force is maintained in the city, purchases of land by the missionaries are facilitated as much as possible, and their deeds are stamped with a promptitude unknown even at such a settled port as Shanghai, while the *Hsien* has voluntarily offered to stamp any of the old deeds in the hands of the missionaries of whose regularity there may be any suspicion. The officials and people are encouraging the missionaries to put up buildings in foreign style, but so far the Chinese style of one-storey building is being adhered to externally.

An enquiry was held at Shanghai on the 17th March by Dr. Eiswaldt and Mr. Seitz into the circumstances of the death of Captain A. H. Windhorst, of the *Tungsha* light-ship. W. Owens, mate of the *Newchwang* light-vessel, said that he was at present living on board the *Tungsha*. About half-past seven on Monday evening (16th) the captain came on board very much the worse for liquor. He showed the witness a rough translation to a letter he had written in German to his wife, in which he said that for the past three weeks he had been as one bereft of reason and intended to take his life. Owens told him not to make such a fool of himself and the captain tore up the letter and translation. Shortly after this Owens went to bed and about ten o'clock was awakened by hearing the report of a gun. He immediately went to the captain's cabin and there found deceased lying on the deck with his brains blown out. He had evidently placed a rifle, which was lying beside him, in his mouth and pulled the trigger by means of a string which was attached to his foot. The Court found that deceased committed suicide whilst under the influence of drink.

A *Newchwang* correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—While taking a trip up country I had the good fortune to view the remains of the Japanese entrenchment on the hill to the E.S.E. of Haicheng. Till then I had had no conception of the thoroughness displayed by the Japanese in all their operations. They had blasted and cut into solid rock and fashioned semi-subterranean barracks 12 feet in depth, 20 feet wide, and about 40 feet in length, on the summit of the hill, and thoroughly fortified the whole place. Had the Chinese been successful in their desperate attempts to capture the city, they would have been shelled out in six hours. Batteries were placed on all the surrounding hills and it would have taken experienced troops no little time and trouble to force the position assumed by the Japanese. I was informed by the Rev. John Macintyre, whose knowledge of the place enabled him to point out the most interesting features of the situation, that it was a matter of profound wonder to the natives at the time that the Japanese could exist on the hill, exposed, as they imagined, to the cold without even a fire, whereas their small assailants were more comfortable in their quarters than they could have been in a Chinese inn.

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—375 bales No. 10 at \$73 to \$77, 465 bales No. 12 at \$72 to \$76.50, 280 bales No. 16 at \$83 to \$89.50, 1,065 bales No. 20 at \$81 to \$88. **Grey Shirtings.**—2,400 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B. at \$2.90, 1,500 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dots at \$2.92½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5. Men at \$3.85. **White Shirtings.**—3,000 pieces No. 300 at \$3.35, 1,000 pieces No. 600 at \$4.05, 3,000 pieces S.Q. at \$4.05, 300 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.40, 1,250 pieces Gold Pheasant at \$3.22½, 500 pieces M. H. at \$5.15, 500 pieces X. G. at \$3.50, 500 pieces X. 7 at \$3.75, 1,000 pieces Gold Goose at \$4, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$4.45. **Drills.**—450 pieces 14 lbs. Hollon Characters at \$4.55. **Turkey Reds.**—250 pieces 5½ lbs. Flute-man at \$3.35.

METALS.—Lead.—390 piculs Australia at \$6.45. Tin.—150 slabs Malacca at \$35.25, 100 slabs Siam at \$35.25.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$65.00 to \$91.50
English—Nos. 16 to 24	104.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24	109.00 to 112.00
" 28 to 32	114.00 to 119.00
" 38 to 42	124.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.85 to 2.05
8½ lbs.	2.20 to 3.10
8 to 10 lbs	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 "	2.65 to 3.25
64 to 66 "	3.30 to 3.75
Fine	4.05 to 6.90
Book-folds	3.20 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.60 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs. (32 "), "	1.80 to 2.95
6lbs. (32 "), Mers.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.15 to 2.40
8 to 8½ lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	3.20 to 3.40

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 16 lbs.	1.30 to 3.50
------------------------------------	--------------

Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50
---------------	--------------

	per yard
Damasks	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.28
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to 0.85

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 3.50

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.90 to 8.00
Assorted	7.00 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	10.00 to 18.00

Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.60
---------------	--------------

	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.20 to 8.40

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.00 to 3.05
Square, Flat Round Bar	3.00 to 3.05
Swedish Bar	4.75 to 4.80
Small Round Rod	3.65 to —
Hoop	4.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead	6.90 to 6.95

	per case
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	25.00 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	24.75 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	26.00 to —
Tin	35.50 to 35.75

	per box
Tin-Plates	5.20 to 5.40

	per cwt. case
Steel	4.25 to —

SUNDRIES

	per picul
Quicksilver	108.00 to —

	per box
Window Glass	4.15 to 4.20

	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	2.10 to —

SHANGHAI, 19th March.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—The steamers have returned from Tientsin, but the dealers are very reticent concerning the reception their first shipments met with. That they are not altogether dissatisfied seems certain; they are, however, not at all confident as to the stability

of the market there, and are anxious not to rush forward supplies or to let any appearance of weakness here affect it. At the same time they don't want to hide themselves any further until their already large holdings have been considerably reduced, and so are not encouraging importers by offering them inducements to lower their prices. Fortunately the home markets keep steady, and the movements of exchange are too vacillating to cause any serious apprehension that a permanent advance is imminent; it is hoped, therefore, that importers will continue firm and not force the dealers to take goods they do not require for the present. The steamers are taking very small cargoes on their second trips, as, with the exception of fancy goods and yarns, the first shipments are going into consumption slowly so far. The Customs have only published the returns of a few of the steamers yet, so it is impossible to give the usual comparative figures of the re-exports. The winter in the North has been exceptionally mild, but the Newchwang steamers do not leave here until the 22nd instant, somewhat later than usual. They are expected to take nearly 16,000 packages, including about 8,000 bales of yarn, which should be sufficient to satisfy the cravings of that small market for a time. Deliveries here are going on very satisfactorily, but, nevertheless, the large shipments now arriving are taxing the godown accommodation to its utmost. Spot sales this week from first hands have been almost the exception, those reported being for the most part resales by the dealers. The auctions, however, are fully efficient and it is, therefore, some consolation to notice a slight improvement in many cases. The forward demand remains quiet, a few orders for 12-lbs. 36 inch Shirtings being the chief business that has gone through this week.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Business has continued fairly brisk and a fair amount of business has been put through, generally at advanced rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled rather unsteady, with sales at 188, 187, 186, and afterwards at 187, 188, and 189 per cent. prem. for cash, at 189 for May, and 194 to 196 per cent. prem. for June; market closes steady at 189. Nationals have been in steady demand and sales have been effected at \$27, \$29, and \$30, closing steady.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of China Traders and Straits, which have declined to \$78½ and \$26½ respectively, we have to report a general advance. North Chinas having changed hands at \$230, Yangtszes at \$149, Cantons at \$200 and \$202½, and Unions at \$202½, \$205, and \$207½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found further buyers at \$318 and \$320, closing steady. Chinas have changed hands at \$92 and \$92½, closing firm at latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao's eased up very considerably during the early part of the week and sales were effected at \$33½, \$33, \$32½, and \$32½; the market, however, soon recovered and at time of writing sales have been made at \$33 and \$33½, closing steady at the latter rate. Douglasses have ruled quiet with small sales at \$52½ and \$52 cash and at equivalent rates; ahead; the General Managers and the Consulting Committee have decided not to pay an interim dividend for the half-year. Indo-Chinas have continued on the upward grade and sales have been effected at \$66, \$67, \$68, \$69, and \$70 for cash; a few shares were placed forward for May and June at equivalent rates; at time of writing, however, a sudden weakness has set in, and shares are obtainable at \$68½ cash; the approaching settlements in Shanghai most probably account for this temporary weakness. China Mutuals ordinaries have further improved to £3 ls. 6d. with sales.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars with a continuation of the Shanghai demand have further improved their position, and sales are reported at \$120, \$121, \$125, \$128, and \$130; market closes weaker with sellers at \$128. Luzons have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$71, \$72, \$73, \$74, and sales are reported as high as \$75.

MINING.—All Mining stock with the exception of Charbonnages show a rise. Punjoms in the early part of the week changed hands at \$6½, \$7, and \$7½, but on receipt of a telegram from the Manager saying that a crushing of 600 oz. was expected for March, the rate quickly rose to \$8, at which a fair number of shares changed hands. Raubs at \$5, Jebebus at \$3,

and Balmorals at \$2 have all changed hands in small quantities.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have receded a little with sales at 172, 171, and 170 per cent. prem.; at time of writing shares are in demand at 171 to 172 per cent. prem. cash, and at 173 to 174 per cent. prem. for April. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands in small lots at \$48 and \$47½. Wanchais unchanged.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Lands have ruled quiet with small sales at \$73 and \$73½. West Points have changed hands at \$18½, and Hotels at \$24.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands, after further sales at \$17, close weaker at \$16½. A. S. Watsons have continued strong at \$12½ and \$13. Fenwicks have been negotiated at \$23½, and more shares are wanted at the rate or even at \$24. Ices have found buyers at \$102 and \$102½, and Tramways at \$92½.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		\$361.25, s. & sellers
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	189 p. c. prem. =
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£110s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$30, sales
Foun. Shares	£1	\$105, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$10
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$4, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$9
China Sugar	\$100	\$123, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	10 p. c. prem.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$23½, ex div. s. &
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$16½, sellers [byrs
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$7, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$92½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$24, sales & sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$102½, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$47½, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$190, ex div.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	171 p. c. prem. =
Insurances—		\$338.75, s. & byrs
Canton	\$50	\$200, sales
China Fire	\$50	\$92, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$78½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sales
North-China	£25	Tls. 230, sales
Straits	\$20	\$26½, sellers
Union	\$25	\$207½, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$140, sales & buyers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$73½, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.75, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17½, buyers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18½, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$75, sales & sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72½
Jebebus	\$5	\$3, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2, buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$8, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$2.20, sales & buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$70, sellers
China Mutual	£5	£3.15, sales & sellers
Do. Pref.	£10	£3.10
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$52, sales & sellers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$33½, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$68½, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$39, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 20th March.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—A large business was done during the week, at rather irregular rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares were purchased from Hongkong at 192, 192½, 190, and 189 per cent. premium, and locally at 195, 192½, 192, and 188 per cent. premium. On time shares were purchased from Hongkong at 195, 193½, and 190 per cent. premium for 31st March, and locally at 196½ and 191 per cent. premium for 30th April, and 195 per cent. premium for 30th June. We quote 188 per cent. premium as the closing rate. The rate in Hongkong is 188 per cent. premium. The London rate remains unchanged at £11.10.0. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares changed hands at Tls. 47½ and Tls. 43½ for cash, Tls. 48 to Tls. 49 for March, Tls. 48 to Tls. 49 for April, Tls. 43½ to Tls. 50 for

June, and Tls. 50½ for July. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares were sold to Hongkong at \$33. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were placed at Tls. 192½, and Hongkong and Whampoa shares were sold to Hongkong at 170 per cent premium. Marine Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance shares changed hands to a fair extent at \$135 to 137½ for cash, at \$135 for March, and \$135 to 137½ for April. A cash sale is reported this morning at \$140. Cantons were sold to Hongkong at \$200. Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—Shares were dealt in at 30 and 28½ for cash, and 9½ to 31½ for May. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs were sold to Hongkong at \$314 and \$315, and are wanted. Chinas have changed hands locally at \$90 and \$91. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 113½ to Tls. 115 cum dividend, and Tls. 115 ex dividend, for cash, Tls. 115½ for March, and Tls. 117½ for June. Hongkong and Kowloon shares were pur based locally at \$47½, and from Hongkong at \$47. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.—Shares have changed hands at Tls. 180 cash and Tls. 175 for the 31st current. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 39½ to Tls. 42. China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—Shares were placed locally at \$118 and \$120, and to Hongkong at \$119, and purchased from Hongkong at \$122, all for cash, and a sale was booked at \$125 for 30th June. Luzon Sugar Refining Co.—Shares were sold to Hongkong at \$69 and purchased thence at \$70 and \$72. A local sale was reported at \$71. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares, fully paid up, were sold at Tls. 80; shares with Tls. 30 paid up are offering at Tls. 69. Hongkong Land Investment shares are weaker. Facories.—Shares in the Ewo Cotton S. & W. Co. were placed at Tls. 70 and Tls. 72½, and are offering. Internationals changed hands at Tls. 72½. Shanghai Ice shares are wanted at Tls. 130. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks Co. Ltd.—Shares are wanted. We quote Tls. 200 as the closing rate ex dividend. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 105 and Tls. 110, Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 315 to Tls. 320 for cash and Tls. 325 for 30th April, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 60, Hall & Holtz shares at \$35 cash and Tls. 33 to Tls. 36 for 31st March. Loans.—Shanghai Municipal Debentures of 1885 were sold at Tls. 101, of 1893 at Tls. 105, and of 1895 at Tls. 101, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Since last report rates coastwise continued firm, and a fair number of fixtures are reported.

From Saigon to Hongkong there has been a fair number of settlements at rates varying from 13 to 15½ cents per picul (according to size). To Singapore small tonnage is enquired for at 15 cents per picul.

From Bangkok to this, several large carriers have found employment at 21 cents inside and 16 cents per picul outside the bar; at the close there is less demand.

From Japan coal ports to Hongkong the rate has improved to \$1.45 per ton, to Singapore to \$2 per ton. With tonnage in hand a better rate might be obtained.

No further settlements have been made from Newchwang to Canton; the rate is nominally 25 cents per picul. This port is expected to be free from ice on the 28th inst.

Sailing tonnage to load hence for New York is not enquired for, present requirements being filled.

There are 4 vessels disengaged in port, registering 3,282 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Standard—American ship, 1,492 tons, Shanghai and Hongkong, option Kote to New York, private terms.

Iry—American barque, 1,181 tons, Mantung to Singapore, 11 cents per picul; thence timber to Shanghai, \$10 per ton.

Cassius—German steamer, 1,606 tons, Takao to Yokohama.

Sabine Rickmers—German steamer, 690 tons, Chefoo to Amoy, \$2,900; thence Newchwang to Amoy, 28 cents per picul.

Telatos—German steamer, 1,811 tons, Amoy to Singapore, passengers, \$1.50 each.

Tritos—German steamer, 1,341 tons, Hoihow to Singapore, passengers, \$5 each.

Chusan—German steamer, 719 tons, Moji to Canton, \$1.85 per ton.

Loyal—Dutch steamer, 1,221 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40, Canton \$1.90 per ton.

Carmarthenshire—British steamer, 1,878 tons, for Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.45; to Saigon, \$2.50 per ton.

Glenorchy—British steamer, 1,822 tons, Moji to Hongkong, private term.

Victoria—Norwegian steamer, 1,992 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.45 per ton.

Frogner—Norwegian steamer, 839 tons, two trips, hence to Bangkok and back, \$5,100 and \$5,750 in full.

Mascotte—British steamer, 2,018 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, private terms.

Darius—British steamer, 2,130 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 16 and 21 cents per picul.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 16 and 21 cents per picul.

Piccola—German steamer, 875 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, \$2,550 in full.

Progress—German steamer, 789 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines and Hongkong, 38 cents per picul.

Afridi—British steamer, 2,354 tons, Saigon and Hongkong (part cargo), 12½ cents per picul.

Aperade—German steamer, 696 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15½ cents per picul.

Erc—British steamer, 1,368 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Jacob Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,107 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Benedi—British steamer, 1,481 tons, two trips Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Independent—German steamer, 1,003 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15½ cents per picul.

Donar—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15½ cents per picul.

Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 1,132 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Michael Jensen—German steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15½ cents per picul.

Ingraban—German steamer, 894 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15½ cents per picul.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Benmohr—British steamer, 1,935 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Argyll—British steamer, 1,886 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Olympia—British steamer, 1,693 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Glenorchy—British steamer, 1,822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Aperade—German steamer, 696 tons, monthly, 1 month, \$5,200.

Loyal—Dutch steamer, 1,221 tons, monthly, 6/3 months, \$3,000 per month.

Michael Jensen—German steamer, 760 tons, monthly, 1 month, \$5,800.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 767 tons, monthly, 4/2 months, \$4,500 per month.

WEENESDAY, 25th March.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.78
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.85
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.25
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	55
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	184
Bank, on demand	184½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	184
Bank, on demand	184½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	¾ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.88
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	46.50
Closing quotations are as follows:—	

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Shanghai (str.), Nestor (str.), Telena (str.), Tosa Maru (str.), Formosa (str.), Dardanus (str.), Turbo (str.).

For BREMEN.—Preussen (str.).

For HAYE.—Dorothea Rickmers (str.), Frigga (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Ernest Simons (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), City of Peking (str.), Coloma, Queen Elizabeth.

For VICTORIA.—Tacoma (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Queen Olga (str.), T. F. Oakes,

Tam O Shanter, Glenartney (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Tsinan (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

March—
17, Mascotte, British str., from Java.
18, Olio, British str., from Singapore.
18, Cosmopolit, German str., from Foochow.
18, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Saigon.
19, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
19, Canton, British str., from Canton.
19, Tantalus, British str., from Shanghai.
19, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
19, Donar, German str., from Saigon.
19, Doris, German str., from Saigon.
20, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Canton.
20, Cheang H. Kian, Brit. str., from Singapore.
20, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
20, Feiching, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Ghazee, British str., from Amoy.
20, Kansu, British str., from Swatow.
20, Inchdune, British str., from Moji.
20, Taicheong, German str., from Aroe Bay.
20, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
20, Hinsang, British str., from Java.
20, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
20, Loosok, British str., from Canton.
20, Peshawur, British str., from Bombay.
20, Tritos, German str., from Bangkok.
20, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
21, Niobe, German str., from Hamburg.
21, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
21, Frigga, German str., from Kobe.
21, Bombay, British str., from Yokohama.
21, Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
21, Queen Olga, British str., from Amoy.
21, Boyuton, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
21, Pigmy, British g-bt., from a cruise.
21, Skuld, Norw. str., from Saigon.
21, Smith, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
21, Elisabeth, German bark, from Rajang.
22, Wing Hong, British str., from Swatow.
22, Kiangpack, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Queen Elizabeth, Brit. sh., from Yokohama.
22, Tsinan, British str., from Moji.
23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
23, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
23, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
23, Hupeh, British str., from Amoy.
23, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
23, Kong Alf, Norwegian str., from Touron.
23, Utrecht, Dutch str., from Sourabaya.
23, Rosetta, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Sultan, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
23, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
23, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
23, Shelley, British str., from Bangkok.
23, Progress, German str., from Moji.
24, Canton, British str., from London.
24, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
24, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
24, St. Anna, Italian bark, from Menado.
24, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
24, Lutin, French g-bt., from Shanghai.
24, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
24, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
24, Lucy A. Nickels, Amr. bk., from N. York.
24, Feiching, British str., from Canton.
24, Plover, British gunboat, from Amoy.
24, Energia, British str., from Liverpool.
24, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
24, Colorado, Amr. bark, from Portland (Or.).
25, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
25, Evandale, British str., from Kutchinotzu.

March—

DEPARTURES.

18, Deuterios, German str., for Saigon.
18, Chittagong, British str., for Kobe.
18, Frogner, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
18, Kiangpack, Chinese str., for Canton.
18, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
18, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
18, Melbourne, French str., for Europe.
18, Pigmy, British g-bt., for a cruise.
18, Kirkhill, British str., for Kobe.
18, Loksang, British str., for Swatow.
18, Namyong, British str., for Amoy.
18, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
18, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.

19, China, German str., for Hoihow.
 19, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Martha, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Ivy, Amr. ship, for Mantung.
 20, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 20, Cadiz, Spanish str., for Cebu.
 20, Cosmopolit, German str., for Chefoo.
 20, Jacob Christensen, Norw. str., for Saigon.
 20, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Ingrahan, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Tantalus, British str., for Singapore.
 21, Feiching, British str., for Canton.
 21, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 21, Kansu, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
 21, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
 21, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Hydaspes, British str., for London.
 21, Independent, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Orono, British str., for Saigon.
 21, Cerastes, German bark, for New York.
 22, Anjer Head, Brit. str., for Swatow.
 22, Cassius, German str., for Takau.
 22, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Elax, British str., for Manila.
 22, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 22, Ghazee, British str., for London.
 22, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, Peshawur, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Smith, Chinese str., for Pakhoi.
 22, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
 23, Choyrang, British str., for Canton.
 23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23, Lyeemoun, German str., for Canton.
 23, Cheang Hock Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 23, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 23, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 23, Kansu, British str., for Chefoo.
 23, Olio, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Benmohr, British str., for Saigon.
 24, Doris, German str., for Chefoo.
 24, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Taicheong, German str., for Amoy.
 24, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 24, Frigga, German str., for Hamburg.
 24, Hupeh, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Kiangpack, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 24, Niobe, German str., for Yokohama.
 24, Progress, German str., for Canton.
 24, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Narcissus, British str., for a cruise.
 25, Boynton, British str., for Hyogo.
 25, Donar, German str., for Saigon.
 25, Germania, German str., for Amoy.
 25, Kansu, British str., for Chefoo.
 25, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
 25, Feiching, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Suisang, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Wing Hong, British str., for Kelung.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Melbourne*, str., for Hongkong from Shanghai—Mrs. Callum and infant, Mrs. Brith and 2 children, Messrs. Procter, Botelthofet and 3 children, A. Y. Greig, Campbell, Delkeskamp, Robertson, Bard, Wang Houch Chen, Tchang Hio Tseng, and Chiang Wei Lung. From Kobe—Messrs. Roupellier, Portal, Tokalashi. For Singapore from Kobe—Messrs. Foster, Hoodwalt, Antony Librer, T. Yamaguchi. For Colombo from Yokohama—Mr. G. Antort. From Shanghai—Mr. Benson. For Port Said from Shanghai—Mr. E. Guizzavechi. For Marseilles from Shanghai—Colonel Woyack, Mr. and Mrs. Semariva, Captain Costanzo, Messrs. Eston and Picasso. From Yokohama—Prince Foushimi, Viscount Kiyo-Oha, Marquis Tokugaiva, Baron Madenokodji, Comte Hissamatsu, Capt. T. Sakamoto, Messrs. Asada, Foukoul, U. Ito, Y. Tokugaiva, G. Galy, Hikovo, Ikeda, Todja, Y. Kamada, Nirayama, Y. Goto, Toki-Oka, U. Saito, Inouye, Jivai, Kosima, and Shinoda.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Durr, Mr. and Mrs. K. J. E. Williams, Miss May Miller, Messrs. W. S. Murray, James Butcher, José Gaskell, Luis Dunnas, John Kennedy, Wm. Graham, José Asnategia, F. S. De Souza, Carlos Becker, Thomas Jeffries, and Wm. Morris.

Per *Peshawur*, str., for Hongkong from London—Mr. and Mrs. Drew, Capt. J. H. Ward, Dr. John Rigg, Messrs. J. Macnair, Gibbes.

Ruttanjee, and Wetenhall. From Brindisi—Dr. Müller, Messrs. P. de C. Morris and Reddick. From Bombay—Mrs. and 2 Misses Parkes, Messrs. J. S. Panthaki, M. J. Patel, E. V. D. Parr, and A. W. Cartwright. From Colombo—Mrs. Carnichael, Mrs. Butterfield, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Percival, Mr. L. M. Wynch, Misses Barrett and Nicholl. From Calcutta—Mr. and Mrs. Ewing. From Penang—Mr. Leong Lok Hing. From Singapore—Capt. Cumins, Mr. P. P. Francis. For Shanghai from London—Capt. and Mrs. Bayley, Rev. and Mrs. Muirhead, Dr. and Mrs. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. Beynon and 3 children, Revs. J. Stobie and A. Glover, Miss E. C. Jones, Messrs. C. H. Shaw, Backhauss, A. Hill, and W. J. Thompson. From Brindisi—Dr. Miller. From Bombay—Mr. and Mrs. Willard, Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, Mr. and Mrs. Trimwell, Mrs. Fletcher, Misses Arnold, Mountcastle, Josephs, Irwin, and Thurnham, Messrs. A. Law, E. Schubert, F. Courtney, S. Jones, and James. From Singapore—Messrs. N. Chalker and H. Raymond. For Nagasaki from Singapore—Mr. J. Ono. For Kobe from Brindisi—Bishop and Mrs. Audry. For Yokohama from London—Lord Dormer, Colonel Townshend, Messrs. Sturrock, Raymond Blathwayt, E. Ward, C. Curtis, J. C. Taylor, G. P. Dodge, Misses Miller and Hogg (2). From Marseilles—Mr. W. S. Rendel. From Brindisi—Bishop and Mrs. Bickersteth. From Port Said—Rev. and Mrs. Fairweather, Miss Cant. From Bombay—Major J. H. Campbell. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Basil Woodd, Capt. Hon. G. A. Lascelles. From Singapore—Mr. A. Odagaki.

Per *Niobe*, steamer, from Singapore.—Dr. Ruettel and 297 Chinese.

Per *Formosa*, str., from Coast Ports.—Capt. Palmer and Mr. Macky.

Per *Bombay*, str., from Kobe for Hongkong.—Mrs. Fitzguala. For London.—Messrs. H. R. Wright, and H. St. J. Browne. From Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Smalley, Mrs. Innes and son, and Mr. C. L. Carnie.

Per *Yarra*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles.—Messrs. Mortimore, De Oliveira, Poehard, Lethbridge, and M. L. Annioette, and Rev. Banier. From Colombo.—Col. and Mrs. Fenner. From Singapore.—Messrs. Egerton Cutler and wife, Jaska Bell, A. Fair, and J. A. Campbell, Revs. Pereira and J. Martin. From Samarang.—Mr. Au Tan and wife. From Saigon.—Mr. T. C. Hutchings, Rev. Lacassagne, and 112 Chinese.

Per *Tsuan*, str., from Moji.—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Grumble and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hyman and child, and Mr. W. H. Bell.

Per *Verona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong.—Mrs. K. M. Wing and infant, Mr. Jodoroki. For Brindisi—Messrs. J. Hayes, P. Thorpe, E. B. Peabody, A. S. Peabody, Misses E. Thorpe and F. Tunniscliffe. For London—Capt. and Mrs. Pender and infant. From Kobe for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Santa Maria. From Nagasaki for Hongkong—Messrs. Yue Tai and J. Label.

Per *Rosetta*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Mrs. and Miss Jamieson, Messrs. W. A. D. Young and Ho Chech In. For Singapore—Mr. J. Kirby. For Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. A. Wright, 2 children and infant. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. V. Rennis, Mr. and Mrs. E. Binks and infant, Mr. Bjorkbaum.

Per *Katsang*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mrs. Wynters, Mrs. Barrett, and 663 Chinese.

Per *Empress of China*, str., for Hongkong from Vancouver.—Mrs. S. Hayward. From Yokohama.—Major Jameson, Dr. G. A. Taylor, and Mrs. G. A. Taylor. From Shanghai.—Messrs. J. H. Garrels, A. P. MacEwen, E. de Barier, and A. R. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H. Baxter, and Consul Fündel.

Per *Canton*, str., from London for Shanghai.—Messrs. Muir and W. G. Grant, Capt. and Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. and Mrs. Caldbeck. From Penang and Singapore for Hongkong.—355 Chinese.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mr. N. D. Ollia.

Per *Hanoi*, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Messrs. Richie and Longfaloff.

DEPARTED.

Per *Melbourne*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Lieut. H. Dillon, Dr. F. Arnold. For Batavia—Messrs. Marcel, Vandevelde, and Max.

Heller. For Singapore—Rev. Br. Jean, Mr. and Mrs. Field, Mr. and Mrs. Werner. For Port Said—Mr. Adollah Tabral. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Sauvage, Messrs. E. de Aparicio and F. Musgrave. From Shanghai for Colombo—Mr. Benson. For Port Said—Mr. E. Guezzavechi. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Semariva, Messrs. Easton, de Woyack, Maitre, de Costanzo, Gourovenec, and Picasso. From Kobe for Singapore—Messrs. Forster, Stoodwalt, Antony Librer, and T. Yamaguchi. From Yokohama for Colombo—Mr. G. Antort. For Marseilles—Prince Foushimi, Viscount Kiyo Oha, Vice-General Tokugawa, Captain T. Sakamoto, Baron Madenskodji, Lieut. Kissamatsu, Lieut.-Col. Ikeda, H. E. Hitrovo (Russian Minister), Capt. Inouye, Messrs. Asada, Foukoul, U. Ito, Y. Tokugawa, G. Galy, Hitrovo, Todja, Y. Kamada, Nirayama, Y. Goto, Toki Oha, U. Saito, Jivai, Kosima, and Shinoda.

Per *Empress of Japan*, str., for Amoy—Mrs. Playfair and 2 children, Messrs. H. E. Waite, A. F. Gardiner, and G. C. Bonnan. For Shanghai—Prince Min, Count Butler, Messrs. Hu, Jameson, Warner, F. Henneberg, Lambie, R. Hoosen, Tong Chewan, J. Maclean, and Mrs. Scudder. For Nagasaki—Dr. Francken. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Raphael, Messrs. J. Hall, H. W. Harris, T. A. Keck, R. T. Crane, Jr., G. A. Koning, G. van der Arend, Chang Pan Han, and Surg. Shaw. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Trevor, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Pierce, Messrs. A. Turner, Law Yat Tong, C. C. Hin and child, and Pow Fong Chew. For Victoria—Mrs. A. Faug and 3 children. For San Francisco—Miss M. R. Perkins. For London—Earl Cairns, Earl Spencer, Countess Spencer, Major and Mrs. Lloyd, Masters Lloyd (2), Capt. and Mrs. M. L. Shipley, Capt. J. G. H. Balfour, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. G. Ryder, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Barron, Messrs. J. W. Wood, Harrison, W. A. Fletcher, J. S. Guthrie, Turner, C. V. Wilson, Shaw, G. Taylor, and Miss B. Smith. For Liverpool—Mr. G. Stewart. For Paris—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Bartol. For Boston—Mr. Yee Boe Tye. From Shanghai for Vancouver—Mr. and Mrs. Ault and son. For Detroit—Mr. F. J. Hecker, Miss Hecker. From Yokohama for London—Mr. Whitlock.

Per *Lightning*, str., for Calcutta—Mr. N. M. Mitchell-Innes.

Per *Tantalus*, str., for London—Capt. Barham, Miss Bush, Master and (2) Misses Jordan.

Per *Gaelic*, str., for Nagasaki—Mrs. J. Ore. For Kobe—Bishop and Mrs. Audry, Capt. the Hon. G. A. Lascelles, Capt. J. H. Ward, R. M. L. I., Messrs. Luis E. Dumas, G. P. Dodge, S. Odagaki, and W. D. Graham. For Yokohama—Lieut. G. P. Bonten, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Thompson, Mrs. Morrison, Bishop and Mrs. Bickersteth, Messrs. S. Murray, F. Weber, and Wong Yuek. For Honolulu—Mr. Lau Chong. For San Francisco—Judge and Mrs. E. S. Dundy, Mrs. E. S. Dundy, Jr., and Miss M. M. Dundy. For New York—Mr. H. G. Trowbridge. For Paris—Lieuts. C. A. de M. Guerreiro and B. X. V. da Silva.

Per *Peshawur*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Colonel and Mrs. Fenner, Mrs. and 2 Misses Parker, Messrs. E. D. V. Parr, F. C. McCallum, King Nam, T. Nagata, P. P. Francis, H. C. Lubeck, and H. W. Row. From London—Capt. and Mrs. Bayley, Rev. and Mrs. Muirhead, Dr. and Mrs. Muir, Mr. and Mrs. Beynon and 3 children, Revs. J. Stobie and A. Glover, Miss E. C. Jones, Messrs. C. H. Shaw, Backhauss, A. Hill, and W. J. Thompson. From Brindisi—Dr. Miller. From Singapore—Messrs. N. Chalker and H. Rayment.

Per *Bombay*, str., for Singapore from Kobe—Mr. H. R. Wright. For London from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Wilkinson and child, Misses Hastings and Higgins. From Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Imalley, Mrs. Innes and child, Mr. C. L. Carnie. From Kobe—Mr. H. W. J. Browne.

Per *Yarra*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Lomas Smith, Mrs. A. Danenberg and 2 children, Misses F. and E. Espeisse, Miss Mancine, Messrs. Bard, J. J. Hatch, J. A. Brandenburg, Espeisse, and C. Danenberg. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Hennessy, Mrs. Daly, Mr. and Mrs. Cutler, Messrs. J. S. Muir and T. Takahashi. For Yokohama—Mrs. G. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Espeisse, Messrs. Flipo and Mullens.